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Principal: Richard Hart



Dear parents/carers of Year 10 girls September 2009

We are taking this first opportunity to write to you and explain some of our key messages regarding the curriculum that your daughter will be following during the academic year 2009/2010.

Success for children depends on a positive working relationship between school and home and as such we would ask that you continue to question and challenge your daughter about what they have learnt during the day and support the academy by having high expectations for them and contacting us as soon as possible regarding anything that you feel we ought to know to help support your daughter.

At Strood Academy we believe that every child should reach their potential and we will be reporting to you at the end of each term (every six weeks) to inform you of your daughter's progress towards their target grades. If your daughter is highlighted as a student who is not reaching her potential then we will implement a raft of strategies designed to help her make up the lost ground; this may involve working in smaller groups or being asked to stay behind after school. We would seek your continued support regarding this and may well invite you into school to discuss your daughter's progress and identify way in which we can work together to ensure success.

Students can find the demands of coursework high especially when deadlines are approaching. We will be working with your daughter to ensure that she receives the support he will need to complete her coursework on time but she will be expected to take full responsibility for her studies. If your daughter is finding meeting deadlines difficult then please encourage her to speak to her teacher and a variety of support strategies can be put into place.

Your daughter will be continuing with the options that she chose at the end of year 8 and the majority of these will culminate in final GCSE examinations in May and June 2011 i.e. at the end of year 11. This is a year later than the plan that the predecessor school had put into place and we believe that a further year of study providing deeper learning experiences and greater enrichment activities will allow the students to achieve better GCSE examination results and provide them with a better platform from which to continue their studies post 16. Students who continue to study and are supported at school right up to their examinations perform better and, as such, students will no longer be granted study leave and will be expected to be in lessons at the Academy until their examinations finish.

Research and experience has shown us that rigidly grouping children by ability does not produce better results and we will be developing a personalised curriculum for all which will enable all to achieve their potential. This means that in the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science there will be some fast track groups, and this group of students will most likely be entered for their GCSE examination early if we believe that they will achieve the highest grade they are capable of. Where students need additional support, this will be provided through our Student Services faculty.

We will be inviting you to a curriculum evening in September where we will explain this in more detail and where you will have an opportunity to ask any further questions you may have.

A wide variety of clubs and activities will be offered at Strood Academy from 3.15pm – 4.15pm and we would encourage all students to take part in as many activities as they can and discuss any ideas they have for new clubs and activities with Mr Guest (Vice Principal).

We would encourage you to contact us at Strood Academy to discuss any concerns that you have regarding your daughter's progress. Mrs Cooke (Vice Principal) will have overall responsibility for your daughter's progress whilst they are in year 10 and 11; Mr Logan will remain their Key Stage Director assisted by Ms Wood. Please feel free to contact any of the staff involved in teaching your daughter to discuss his progress at any time.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Gunn