

Carnation Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent ME2 2SX Tel: 01634 717121

Cliffe Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent ME2 3DL Tel: 01634 719983

Principal: Richard Hart



Dear Parents/Carers of year 8 boys September 2009

We are taking this first opportunity to write to you and explain some of our key messages regarding the curriculum that your son 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 son 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 son.

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 son's progress towards their target grades. If your son is highlighted as a student who is not reaching their potential then we will implement a raft of strategies designed to help them 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 son's progress and identify way in which we can work together to ensure success.

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.

Students will take their GCSE options later this year and when they enter Key Stage 4 in year 9 they will generally take three years to complete their GCSEs which will enable them to have opportunities for deeper learning and enrichment activities that will further support their learning and provide them with a better platform to achieve improved results.

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).

Mr Daly (Assistant Vice Principal) will have overall responsibility for your son's progress whilst he is in year 8 and Mr Kennison will remain their Head of Year but we would encourage you to contact any of the staff involved in teaching your son if at any time you wish to discuss their progress.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Gunn