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Principal: Richard Hart



Dear Parents/Carers of year 8 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.

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 daughter's progress whilst she is in year 8 and Mrs Sage will remain Key Stage Director assisted by Mrs Bracewell but we would encourage you to contact any of the staff involved in teaching your daughter if at any time you wish to discuss their progress.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Gunn