

Year 9 Parent Notes

The focus in Year 9 has now shifted towards ensuring that all students are getting themselves prepared to step up to the new challenge of studying GCSEs. In assembly next week Miss Murphy will be introducing 'GCSE Ready', to support students as they move from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4. She will introduce the idea of a checklist that we want all of our Year 9 students to be able to complete, encompassing all of the characteristics we see in our successful Year 11 students, such as being independent and meeting deadlines. If students are successful in meeting the challenges of being 'GCSE Ready' then we will want to celebrate their success at the end of the summer term.

The checklist encompasses a lot of the student's everyday school life, and involves things that the vast majority of Year 9 are already doing. The checklist includes having 97% attendance from March-May 2018, taking part in an enrichment activity for at least half a term, achieving the Bronze Reading Award by reading two books between now and May half term and completing a small task to show their English teacher. It also covers areas such as detentions (not getting any), and achieving 8 or more achievement points for 'resilience' – a key skill needed by successful GCSE students.

At this point it is vital to point out that these checklist criteria start from Monday 16 April and will go until Friday 25 May. So if students have already received detentions or had significant absence, these do not count to them being successful over the next few months and ultimately being ready to start their new GCSE courses. If a student is unable to complete a section of the checklist for some reason they will have a chance to speak to Miss Murphy or Mrs McNamara explaining why in June, and if the reason is valid then they will still be considered to be 'GCSE Ready'. We feel that the criteria set before the Year 9 students in assembly are very achievable but at the same time challenging for all.

We would also like to congratulate the 67 students who earned commendations this week in recognition of the progress and attainment they have made so far this academic year as well as demonstrating excellent approaches to learning. This happened on Monday and all of the students received a certificate in recognition of their achievements as well as a well-earned doughnut. Please do pass on our congratulations if this was your son/daughter.

Many other students have also been awarded a Progress Leader Commendation, worth 20 achievement points, for having no homework detentions so far this term. We are endeavouring to celebrate the success of not only those students who go above and beyond, but also those who get it right day in, day out – this shows resilience and is definitely worth celebrating.

With regards to Options we are still in the process of checking that all students are on the appropriate curriculum path and where we feel a student may be on the incorrect path a conversation will be taking place to confirm that this is what they meant to put and the benefits of maybe being on a slightly different route.

Mrs A McNamara
Assistant Headteacher - KS3
amcnamara@oxtedschool.co.uk

Miss K Murphy
Year 9 Progress Leader
kmurphy@oxtedschool.co.uk