

Year 9 Parent Notes

In assembly this week Miss Murphy introduced the 'GCSE Ready checklist' to Year 9. The purpose of this checklist is to ensure that all students are getting themselves prepared to step up to the challenge of studying GCSEs. The checklist encompasses 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 includes:

- having **97% attendance** from March 2018-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
- getting **no more than 3 homework detentions and no SLT detentions**
- gaining **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 run until Friday 25 May. 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 Foyles and Stocketts who took joint first place in the recent Inter-House Goalball. Grants followed in third place, Tenchleys in fourth and Detillens in fifth. Well done to all those that took part in the Inter-House competition – this is exactly the sort of enrichment activity we want to see students take part in!

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.

We hope that you have a restful Easter break and that students can recharge their batteries ready to return to school for the final term of Key Stage 3!

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