



VA

November 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

With a term under our belts I thought I would take this opportunity to say hello to all the parents and carers of Year 9 students. I met many of you in the excellently attended parent workshops last term. For those I have not met I should like to take this opportunity to welcome you back to Year 9 at Guilsborough Academy.

The staff at Guilsborough were very impressed with the conduct and progress made by the students in Year 8 and we look forward to further outstanding progress being made this year. This progress was, I am sure, in no small part due to the hard work and support that is provided by you at home and this is very much appreciated at Guilsborough.

Year 9 is an important year as this is when your son/daughter embarks on their GCSE courses. This is a year earlier than previous years will have started but we believe the extra time this provides allows for more flexibility to be offered in terms of the learning approaches and for staff and students to be able to embed the information and skills they will need.

It was a pleasure to meet so many of you at the parents' evening and I hope this year we will be able to work together again to ensure your son/daughter thrives and enjoys their time with us.

Key dates that you need to be aware of are as follows:

- 16th December Progress report
- 26th January Parents Evening (5pm – 7pm)
- 17th March Progress report
- 27th June Full report
- July Germany trip (date to be confirmed).

GOALS

With this in mind, students need to approach this year determined to do their best. As you will be aware, as part of our vision as a school our aim is "Learning Without Limits" We believe this can be achieved through 'GOALS' which forms our core values as a school; Guilsborough students succeed when they are **Organised**, have a good **Attitude** toward learning, are courteous to others whilst also using appropriate **Language**, and are **Supportive** toward one another. We encourage all our students to share in our ethos and of course as your child begins Year 9, we hope s/he will demonstrate these values daily.

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Principal:
Mrs J S Swales
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Organisation

Being organised is the key to success, therefore it is important that students bring the correct equipment to school; pens, pencils, a ruler, the correct books for the lessons timetabled, PE kit, food ingredients and of course their termly planner. In order to help students be organised they are expected to have their planner every day to record homework, clubs and subject levels. It is checked by their form tutors once a week and must be signed by both parents and the form tutor, so that good communication between the school and home is maintained. Any messages you wish the form tutor to read can also be written in the student planner.

Independent Learners

In order to help our students to be better learners and prepare them for the challenges during KS3 and KS4, your child will be encouraged to solve problems more independently. Students will be introduced to our "Stuck Policy" within lessons also Mr Gowney-Hedges, one of our Assistant Head teachers who leads on teaching and learning, will introduce this through assemblies in the year. The aim is to increase our students' resilience ensuring that, all our students have the skills needed to be independent, self-motivated and effective learners. We ask that you encourage your child to be an independent learner at home by ensuring s/he completes their homework on time and finds solutions when problems arise.

Reward system

This year we have amended our rewards to work in conjunction with our new house system. Stamps for each lesson have been replaced and instead each student will be accredited with 25 points at the start of each week with additional points being given for: individual pieces of work, showing courtesy and respect around school, participation in school events, attendance, leadership achievements and house competitions. The points will result in various rewards such as: public recognition on house boards and in the newsletter, celebratory postcards home, early lunch passes, tea with the Principal and non-uniform days. We are exceptionally proud of our students and feel that these changes will better acknowledge their achievements.

Uniform

Combinations which are acceptable are: the black blazer, white shirt and tie. All combinations are to be worn with black tailored trousers or a knee length skirt. Shoes must be black, no canvas shoes or trainers are to be worn. Please note that chinos, jeans, jeggings or leggings are not acceptable.

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Form tutors

Should you have any initial worries or queries, your child's form tutor is a good point of contact as they will be able to help you to identify the appropriate member of staff that will be able to assist you. The email addresses for all the Year 9 tutors are detailed below:

9E-BR	Mr R Bird – bird@guilsborough.northants.sch.uk
9W-KND	Mr T Kendall kendall@guilsborough.northants.sch.uk
9R-WND	Miss K Windridge windridge@guilsborough.northants.sch.uk
9S-MRT	Mrs A Marston marston@guilsborough.northants.sch.uk
9E-GMS	Mr D Grimsey grimsey@guilsborough.northants.sch.uk
9S-GDY	Mrs S Godley godley@guilsborough.northants.sch.uk
9R-MLS	Miss E Mills mills@guilsborough.northants.sch.uk
9W-WLG	Mr K Woolridge woolridge@guilsborough.northants.sch.uk

Homework

You will be able to use the VLE to access all homework that has been set. The tutors will show you how to do this.

Please do keep in contact with tutors, especially if you have any issues or concerns. Also please let us know anything you wish to celebrate such as a child's achievements you would like us to be aware of. I am really looking forward to another successful year and celebrating all of our Year 9's achievements.

Yours faithfully,

Mr R Vandersteen

Head of Year 9

vandersteen@guilsborough.northants.sch.uk

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