

June 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to parents to express my concern at some of the issues we have encountered with our Year 10 students since the start of the recent mock examination series.

Disappointingly, since exams commenced, we have seen a number of cases of Year 10 students regularly attempting to leave school after exams have finished, even when there remains part of the school day still to be completed. Incredibly, in some instances, we have also seen parents attempting to facilitate their children leaving early by contacting the school and asking us to let children leave, or in some cases parents turning up at school and asking to collect their children, despite there being no reason for their child not to be in school.

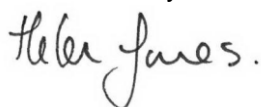
I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that it is a compulsory requirement for all students to be in school during school hours, including our Year 10 students. We will not authorise Year 10 students leaving school after exams have taken place. Students should be going on to their normal timetabled lessons after exams have been completed and should not be leaving school early. We would respectfully ask that parents reiterate this message with their children at home and that you do not support these attempts by students to leave early or facilitate them doing so when they should be at school.

This period of their academic life is the most vital your children will have faced so far, with students about to move into Year 11 and look ahead to their GCSE examinations. They are also formulating the choices they will be making about further education or moving into the world of work. The decisions parents and students make now will have a significant impact on their future success.

It is also the case that when students move into further education or work, they will need to seek a reference from the school. Those references will include information such as attendance data, which will reflect these periods of unauthorised absence that are being taken now, when they should not be. Behaviour and attendance will also be significant factors that will be used by us to make decisions about which students are able to take part in celebration events in Year 11, before students leave the Academy.

We would ask that parents support the Academy by ensuring that students maintain excellent attendance and are reminded that they must be in school during school hours, including after mock exams. We would also politely ask that parents do not seek to absent children from school without good reason to do so.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heber Jones".

Ms H Jones
Executive Headteacher