



Dear Parent

12 April 2019

It has been another fantastic term for students in Year 9 with many activities taking place both in and out of school. Year 9 students have taken part in the I-Rail Challenge, Vocational visits to Derby College and Mental Health Mentors training. There have been many other events including a small team of Year 9 students attending the National Finals of the Big Bang at the NEC Birmingham after winning a regional event. They were runners up in their age group from entries across the country.

With over half of the year group taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme it has been, and will continue to be, a busy time with students completing their skills section, their volunteering section and taking part in their practice expedition. One practice has already taken place with two more to follow soon after Easter.

Recent assemblies have been focusing on hard work and resilience. Doing well in lessons, making and maintaining friendships, and ensuring that behaviour is good takes hard work. Things do not always go the way that we have planned but with hard work and resilience we can overcome setbacks. During Year 9 there is always a lot of movement within friendship groups and this can cause friction if students are not prepared for changes as they mature.

We now have 164 parents out of 218 in the year group accessing the Parents Class Charts app which means that they are receiving live information about behaviour, rewards and homework. There are currently 150 students accessing the Students Class Charts app. This number needs to increase to 218 as after Easter all homework and detentions will be set only using Class Charts. Students can easily get their log in codes from their form tutor or any teacher and start using the app.

Students have made their final options choices and this process has now been completed at school. Students will receive a letter with their options choices before Easter. If there are any issues with options choices then please contact Miss Jones at school.

The Year 9 exams start on 7 May and continue until 10 May. I have attached a timetable so that you can encourage students to revise for the exams over Easter. These exams are important as they give students a chance to practice their revision techniques in preparation for GCSE exams in Years 10 and 11. Revision techniques that work well are flash cards, mnemonics, summarising key facts on to one page; one of the the best techniques is simply to practice exam questions. Just re-reading exercise books, text books or revision guides does not work as it is passive learning not active learning.

Finally as the weather warms up just a reminder about uniform standards. Students must have school shoes not trainers and they must always have their blazer at school. Students can bring a pair of trainers to play on the Astroturf at lunchtime but they must be in school shoes for the rest of the day. Easter is also a good time to stock up on stationery to make sure that students have a full set of equipment for the exams and for lessons throughout the summer term.

Yours faithfully

Alistair Dunn
Head of Year 9

Year 9 Exam Timetable

Date	Morning	Afternoon
Tuesday 7th May	11.30 – 12.00 German	1.10 – 2.10 Drama
Wednesday 8th May	9.00 – 10.00 Science	1.10 – 2.10 Geography
Thursday 9th May	9.00 – 10.00 History	1.30 – 3.00 Maths
Friday 10th May	10.15 – 12.00 English	1.10 – 2.10 Dance 2.30 – 3.00 French