

July 2010

Dear Y9 Parents

Next year your son will be in Year 10 and I am writing to introduce myself in my capacity as Head of Year. Year 10 is an exciting year with all sorts of opportunities both in and out of the classroom and I look forward to working with you to enable your son to make the most of next year.

While the school and home environment are different your son will carry the same concerns through both and I am sure that we will share common challenges throughout the next year. This is the time that your son will experience a significant increase in workload. Our greater expectations in terms of his ability combined with preparing him for public exams will place demands on him that may cause him concern and worry. Others may show little response to the new demands and continue with their current working habits which will now not suffice. Both responses are equally problematic but require different approaches.

This may also be the year where he could start displaying what is described as 'teenage' behaviour. He may communicate very little to adults and will increasingly feel that the structures and boundaries placed around him are constraints which seek to limit his behaviour for no good reason. The lure of privileges afforded to boys older than him will also loom enticingly on the horizon. While it may be tempting for us to relax some of these boundaries now will not be the time to do this. It is my experience that the setting out of clear and consistent expectations and the consequences of not meeting them will go a long way. If a boy fails to meet them then a calm and rational explanation of our response will usually leave the boy feeling fairly treated, even though he may still resent the consequences.

I would very much encourage your son to get involved in the wider QEH community as much as possible. Idle hands are never idle for long and appropriate channelling of energies does much to alleviate this. His tastes will be changing and the clubs and activities that he may previously have enjoyed could start losing their appeal. Fortunately this is the time when he can embark on the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. This has been hugely successful and, while we cannot force your son to partake in it, we will seek a valid reason if he chooses not to. In any event it is hugely popular and many boys supplement this by taking part in the Ten Tors event. Both schemes are run by Mr Cook who will happily provide further information if required.

If there are any issues please feel free to contact me and we will do our best to help and offer advice. I would appreciate it if you could show your son this letter and discuss it with him; it is important for us to communicate our expectations as early as possible. I wish you and your son all the best for the next year and look forward to his return to QEH in the Autumn Term.

Yours faithfully,

Dr H Kyle
Head of Year 10