



Friday 26th September

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 9,

As we settle into the new academic year, I wanted to take this opportunity to commend Year 9 students for the impressive start they have made during the first three weeks of term. It has been a pleasure to welcome them back and to see the positive attitude, maturity and enthusiasm with which they have approached this important stage of their education.

We have set high expectations for the year group in terms of their attitude to learning and our 6 Rs. I am proud to share that many students in Year 9 have risen to meet those expectations. Across the year group, students have demonstrated a readiness to learn and they have engaged with their lessons in a purposeful and focused way. It has also been encouraging to see students beginning to develop their independence and take more responsibility for their learning, which will be essential as they begin to consider their options for GCSE.

As we continue into the Autumn term, I would like to ask for your support in a few key areas to ensure that all students are well prepared to make the most of their time in school.

Homework

- We would appreciate your continued involvement in supporting homework routines.
- Regular conversations at home about what homework is due and checking their planner and Microsoft Teams together can have a significant impact on students' organisation and ability to manage their time effectively.
- Encouraging your child to pack their school bag the night before is also a simple but valuable habit that helps ensure they arrive at school prepared for the day ahead.
- We are encouraging all students in the year group to always keep a popper wallet or folder in their school bag. This is a practical way to store any loose sheets, handouts or homework that need to be completed or returned. It will also help to reduce the risk of work getting lost or damaged and supports students in developing good organisational habits.

Uniform

- Uniform and presentation continue to be an important part of life at Great Marlow School. Our full policy is on the school website.
- Please do support us by ensuring that your child is wearing the correct uniform each day and adhering to the school's guidance on jewellery.
- A reminder that only one small stud per ear is permitted and other jewellery, including bracelets, should not be worn in school.

- As we move into the colder months, students have the option of wearing a black V Neck jumper to school. Their school blazer remains a compulsory part of their uniform. Coats can be worn on top of their school blazer (a coat does not substitute their blazer!)

Learning Reflection

- This is a key year as students begin to reflect on their interests and aspirations in preparation for making their GCSE Options choices in the Spring Term.
- As outlined during my information evening earlier this month, I would encourage you to talk regularly with your child about which subjects they enjoy, where their strengths lie and what their future goals might be.
- These conversations will support them in making informed and confident decisions when the time comes.
- Information about your child's attendance, behaviour and achievement via Eduspot (formerly Xpressions) can also support with your learning reflection conversations. <https://parents.eduspot.co.uk/getting-started/>

Mobile Phones / Social Media

- Mr Maguire covered some key information linked to safeguarding and online safety during the Y9 information evening.
- As a school, we ask for your continued support with monitoring your child's phone and social media use as we do not want issues on social media to impact upon their learning time in school.
- Students' phones are switched off and placed in their bags during the school day.

Attendance

- Finally, please can you stress the importance of your child having a good attendance to school in your conversations at home.
- Over the summer, during the GCSE and A Level results days, it was clear to all that the Y11 and Y13 students who attended school regularly during their time here achieved strong academic outcomes. Our school target is 96%.
- I kindly ask for your full cooperation with our attendance procedures in school by emailing attendance or calling the school for occasions when your child is truly unable to attend. Please also avoid booking non-essential appointments during school time.
- We monitor attendance daily and will implement support interventions if patterns of absence or lateness emerge.

Thank you for your continued support.



Miss Miles
Director of Learning Year 9