FERNDOWN
Upper School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of our first half term, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Year 10 students on the positive start they have made to this important stage of their education.

The transition from Key Stage 3 into GCSE study can be a challenging one, with increased expectations around independent learning, organisation, and commitment. However, I am pleased to report that the vast majority of Year 10 students have settled exceptionally well into their GCSE courses. Their attitude in lessons has been positive, and many students have demonstrated maturity, resilience, and a willingness to embrace the new challenges that GCSE study brings.

It has been encouraging to see students engaging fully with their learning both in the classroom and through homework and revision activities. We encourage all students to continue developing effective study habits and maintaining high standards of organisation as these skills will be invaluable throughout Years 10 and 11. As a year team we have adopted the motto of **#Knowledgeispower** as this is a critical time where every lesson taught contains vital information which will be needed (and will be examined) to successfully achieve the GCSE grades your son/daughter is capable of and reach their potential.

Many students have also continued to demonstrate the 'Hicks' values this term which is fantastic to see! Hicks Legends of the term : Ollie M, Abbi S, Lauren A-S, Beth T, Nancy S, Gabi W, Hermione P, Darwin L, Kacie A and Leo T.

I would also like to recognise and celebrate the many students who have represented the school through extracurricular activities this half term. Whether participating in our sports teams, rehearsing for the school production, or taking part in the wide range of clubs and activities on offer, these students have shown outstanding commitment and enthusiasm. Extracurricular involvement plays a vital role in developing confidence, teamwork, and leadership skills, and we are incredibly proud of their achievements.

Looking ahead, I would like to remind families that students will be required to complete a work experience placement during Year 10 W/C 5th July. While this may seem some time away, we strongly encourage students and parents to begin considering possible placements now. Popular employers can become fully booked well in advance, so making early enquiries can help secure a meaningful and rewarding placement. The students will need to upload these details on the Unifrog platform which they have already been shown how to use. Please do get in contact if you have any queries regarding work experience and we will be happy to help.

Thank you for your continued support during this first half term. The partnership between home and school is essential in helping our young people succeed, and we greatly appreciate your encouragement and guidance.

We look forward to building on this positive start as we move into the next half term.

Key information and contact:

1. For any queries, please make any contact with the year 10 team (Mrs Hicks - Head of Year, Mr Thorn – Deputy Head of Year, Mrs Cheeseman – Pastoral Manager) through the email address :- Headofyear10@fernup.dorset.sch.uk
2. For absence, please use this contact studentabsence@fernup.dorset.sch.uk. We request you let us know of any absence by 8.15am each day.
3. For any specific SEND queries please use Sendsupport@fernup.dorset.sch.uk
4. Any queries regarding health care plans contact medical@fernup.dorset.sch.uk
5. If there are any concerns with Bromcom and accessing anything please email Gaylemilsom@fernup.dorset.sch.uk and she will be able to help you.

I hope you and your family enjoy a restful and enjoyable break.

Yours faithfully,

Cadi Hicks

Head of Year 10