

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 10 Students,

Welcome to Year 10 – The Start of the GCSE Journey

I hope you and your families had a restful and enjoyable summer. As we begin this new school year, I want to offer a very warm welcome to all of our Year 10 students and their families.

This year is a big moment in your child's school journey — the beginning of their GCSEs. It marks an exciting new chapter, full of opportunities to learn, grow, and discover just what they are capable of. We know that this can feel like a step up, but please rest assured that we are here to support every student, every step of the way.

Year 10 is a time when students start to shape their future paths — not just through their academic work, but also by developing confidence, independence, and resilience. We are so proud of the amazing young people they are becoming, and we're excited to see everything they will achieve this year.

Thank you for the continued support you give your children and our school. When families and schools work in partnership, the results can be truly transformational — and we're so pleased to be working with you as we begin this important year together.

Key Contacts

10BE – Ms Begum

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10MA – Ms Mackness and Mr Knight

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10MU – Ms Murray

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10GR - Ms Greenhalgh and Ms Mincoff

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10DA - Ms Daszek-Green

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10HP – Ms Hope

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Key Dates This Term

Wednesday 10th September – 100% Attendance Celebration (for last term)

Thursday 18th September – Year 10 Information Evening

Friday 3rd October – Year 10 Careers Drop-Down Day

Please make a note of these events. We encourage all parents and carers to attend the Information Evening to gain insight into the year ahead.

Work Experience – 18th–22nd May 2026

Year 10 Work Experience will take place from Monday 18th to Friday 22nd May 2026, just before the May half term.

Although it may seem far away, this is the perfect time to begin planning. If your child has already thought about or secured a placement, please ensure that the Own-Find Form is submitted to Ms

Nembhard. Forms can be emailed to Ms Nembhard or dropped off at the Careers Hub on the ground floor.

Work experience is not about preparing for one specific job — it's about learning what a professional environment is like, understanding expectations, and developing transferable skills that will benefit students throughout their lives.

Students can also use Unifrog to build a CV. A step-by-step guide and required forms are available through their login page.

For questions or support, please contact Ms Nembhard at cnembhard@deptfordgreen.co.uk

Safeguarding and Wellbeing – Social Media and Getting Home Safely

As our young people grow more independent, it's important to keep open conversations going at home — especially about social media use and safety in the community.

Social media can be a powerful tool for connection, but it can also bring challenges. Students will be exploring online safety in their PSHE lessons, but we also encourage you to talk to your child about what platforms they use, how they interact online, and how they can stay safe.

We'd also like to remind families of the importance of getting home safely after school. With phone thefts on the rise in the local area, we strongly advise that students head straight home at the end of the day and avoid gathering in the local community. Our staff are on duty outside school until 3:30pm each day to support students in making a safe journey home.

Attendance and Punctuality

High attendance is a key factor in GCSE success. Everyday matters — every lesson is a step forward. Absences must be reported via the Studybugs app by 8:30am. Students must arrive at school by 8:35am for tutor time or assembly. Movement time between lessons is built into the timetable — there should be no lateness to class.

We are delighted that a large majority of Year 10 students currently have attendance of 96% or higher, which is a fantastic start. A special congratulations to the following students who achieved 100% attendance last year: Tosin, Natasha, Jordan, Faith P and Maurice.

If your child's attendance falls below 90%, you will be invited in for a meeting so we can work together to support them.

Home Learning and Independent Study

As GCSEs begin, home learning becomes even more important. Developing consistent study routines and taking ownership of learning outside the classroom will make a huge difference.

All homework is set on Class Charts, which parents can use to monitor completion.

The Library is open daily for quiet study and access to laptops.

Many subjects offer after-school study clubs — students are strongly encouraged to attend.

Further resources can be found on the Independent Learning section of the school website.

Celebrating Year 10 Success

We are already seeing strong engagement, positive attitudes, and excellent behaviour from Year 10. The number of LORIC points being awarded reflects the hard work students are putting in across all areas of school life.

A huge well done to our Top 10 LORIC Learners for last term — your enthusiasm, consistency, and dedication are shining through. We're excited to celebrate even more achievements as the year goes on well done to Hephzibah, Darlyn, Harley, Arabella and Xavier.

Looking Ahead

This year is an opportunity for every student to build a strong foundation for success — not just in exams, but in life. We believe in every one of our students and look forward to seeing the amazing things they will achieve.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support. If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to speak to a member of the team, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Let's work together to make this a safe, fulfilling, and successful GCSE year for all our students.

Warm regards,

Miss Wild
Head of Year 10