



the ST LAWRENCE academy

October 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to the start of a new academic year at The St Lawrence Academy. All students have now settled into their new KS4 Tutor Groups. For Year 10, it is the beginning of a process that will shape their lives in the years to come. For Year 11, it is the vitally important eight months count down to the final GCSE examinations.

It is our policy to set homework for all students and we would encourage you to check the homework timetable for your child on our website or any future online resources. The homework could take many different forms, which may include essays, research, investigations, sketchpads, completion of classwork, revision for tests/examination, project work, or preparation for lessons. Ongoing coursework is a major part of many examination subjects. In the Curriculum Guide booklet for Years 10 and 11, you will find exactly what percentage of each course is examination and what percentage is coursework. Almost all coursework requires ongoing work at home throughout the year so that deadlines for completion are met.

It will be an extremely rare occurrence when your son or daughter does not have some work to do at home. When they say they have not got any homework, ask them about the progress of their coursework. No one can be reminded enough about the importance of coursework and meeting deadline dates.

Even if you are completely satisfied that they have no homework, what about the Internet? There are some superb websites out there: Schoolzone and Schoolsnet, to name but two. All have student and parent areas of interest. We can personally recommend the Bitesize guides and revision pages at www.bbc.co.uk/education.

Although a great deal of emphasis is placed on revision in Year 11, it is an excellent habit to get into in Year 10 as well as there will be unit tests, modular tests and mock examinations to deal with throughout the year. The sooner the student learns to cope with the discipline of revision, the better the examination results.

There are a number of pages in the student planner to help students improve and plan their revision to improve examination techniques. Further help will be given in different ways over the two years, for example:

- The provision of extra lessons in some subject areas
- The availability of revision booklets
- The use of specific computer packages
- Internet and interactive resources
- The appointment of teacher and other adult mentors (Year 11)
- Homework clubs
- Coursework clubs.

Clearly this will be an extremely busy time for your son/daughter. A great deal of hard work and self-discipline will be needed in order to secure exam success.

We look forward to meeting with parents of Year 11 students at our Parents' Evening in January 2016 as part of our work together to encourage our students to realise their potential. Similarly we look forward to meeting parents of Year 10 students through planned appointments during our consultation evening.

Careers guidance will be provided throughout the year within the PSHCCE (Personal, Social Health, Citizenship and Careers Education) programme, which we are sure, will be of great help in shaping the future for your son/daughter. Please encourage your son/daughter to take advantage of this provision.

Yours sincerely

Joan Barnes
Principal