

4 September 2009

To: Parents of Year 10 Pupils

Dear Parents

I am very proud to introduce myself as the new Head of Key Stage 4 at Cirencester Deer Park School. The next two years mark the most important, challenging and exciting time in your child's education thus far. Without a doubt, the amount of effort, dedication and determination shown in Years 10 and 11 is crucial in opening doors to a brighter future. I feel privileged to be able to assist the young people at this school to achieve their goals and realise their ambitions and I look forward to ensuring they leave us as well informed learners who can make their way confidently into the world.

In the short time I have spent at CDPS, already I have been struck by the genuine sense of community found here. This sense of community and moving forwards together is something I believe in passionately. Pupils achieve excellent results only through the support of staff, their peers and you as parents. I welcome the opportunity to meet with you and work alongside you in order to help your child enjoy school, achieve to the fullest of their potential and to thrive. Should you at any point feel there are issues standing in the way of your child's success, please contact the Key Stage 4 Office so we can solve them together.

I believe in aiming high and refuse to accept 'second best'. Therefore I expect pupils at Key Stage 4 to be engaged in their learning and to work hard, adhering to school policies and showing respect towards one another and to staff. I also want them to enjoy their time with us. I have been impressed on my visits to the school by how much the children here enjoy their lessons and I am keen to encourage pupils to make the most of the superb facilities and opportunities at Deer Park School, both inside and outside of the classroom.

To feel properly valued, pupils must be listened to and I fully intend to develop opportunities for the student voice to be heard. This will involve continuing to raise the profile of the already excellent school council as well as other initiatives designed to enable pupils' views to be heard. Only by working in partnership with our young people can we maintain excellence. I would like this to be reflected in the commitment of parents and hope to see you at some of the events organised to keep you informed about your child's learning. At these events, there will also be an opportunity for you to feedback on how well you feel we are doing.

The first of these events is rapidly approaching and I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to our '**Getting to Know Key Stage 4**' evening on **Wednesday September 17th**. This evening offers the chance to get to know the Key Stage 4 team. A series of practical workshops will take place, designed to assist you in supporting your child through Years 10 and 11. More details about this event can be found on the accompanying letter or by following the link on the homepage of the school website. I do hope to see you there and I would encourage you to return the reply slip to your child's tutor as soon as possible, stating your choice of workshops for the evening.

I will be writing shortly with details of important dates for your calendar over the coming year, including the all important coursework deadlines. I very much look forward to working with you all and to a very exciting future at Cirencester Deer Park School. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me at school if I can be of any assistance.

Yours sincerely

David Clarke

Head of Key Stage 4

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