



HAYES SCHOOL

West Common Road, Hayes, Kent, BR2 7DB

Headteacher: Mr R Hitch B.A., M.A., PGCE

T: 020 8462 2767

E: postmaster@hayes.bromley.sch.uk

www.hayes.bromley.sch.uk



@HayesSecondary

Our ref: DJR/mhn/off/Year10/WelcomeLetter

21st September 2026

Dear Year 10 Students, Parents and Carers,

Re: Welcome to Year 10

A very warm welcome to Year 10! Apologies for the length of this communication. However, I hope you appreciate the messages within it.

As we begin this important year, I wanted to take a moment to share some thoughts about the journey ahead. Year 10 is an exciting time. Students are beginning to take greater ownership of their learning, developing their independence and working towards qualifications that will open doors to their future.

At the same time, we recognise that Year 10 can sometimes feel like a big step. Expectations increase, subjects become more challenging and students may occasionally experience moments when they feel overwhelmed, unsure of themselves or worried about getting things wrong.

Please remember that **they do not have to navigate this journey alone.**

As a school, we are here to support, encourage and challenge every student. We want our young people to know that making mistakes is part of learning, asking for help is a strength and progress does not always happen in a straight line.

Our hope is that, by working closely together — students, parents and school — we can make Year 10 a really positive and successful year.

Everyday matters

Show up. Learn more.

One of the most powerful things students can do to support their learning is something that may sound very simple:

come to school every day and make the most of every lesson.



HAYES
SCHOOL



There is a strong relationship between attendance and academic attainment.

Department for Education research published in 2025 found that students with higher attendance were more likely to achieve stronger outcomes at Key Stage 4, even when other factors such as prior attainment and pupil characteristics were taken into account.

For example:

Students with 95–100% attendance in Year 11 were

1.9 times more likely

to achieve Grade 5 or above in English and mathematics than similar students attending 90–95% of the time.

95–100% attendance



1.9x

90–95% attendance



Good attendance isn't just about being present — it's about unlocking your potential.

Every day counts!



IMPACT Multi Academy Trust

A company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales with number 07697400

Registered office: Hawksbrook Lane, South Eden Park Road, Beckenham. BR3 3BE



Cont'd...

21st September 2026

These statistics are not here to frighten or pressure anyone. Instead, they remind us of something important: **every lesson counts.**

A missed lesson is not simply an hour away from school. It can mean missing an explanation, a new piece of knowledge, a class discussion, an opportunity to practise, important feedback or the chance to ask a question. When missed learning begins to accumulate, students can sometimes find themselves having to catch up while their classmates are already moving forward.

This is why we want to establish strong attendance habits from the very beginning of Year 10. Of course, we understand that children sometimes become unwell or that families can experience circumstances that make regular attendance difficult. If there are challenges affecting your child's attendance, please talk to us. **Our starting point will always be support, understanding and finding a way forward together.**

Revision: Small steps, repeated regularly

Looking ahead to April and May:

Develop the habit of consistent revision.



HAYES
SCHOOL

Alongside attendance, we want to encourage students to develop another important habit: **consistent revision.**



Revision can sometimes seem like something that belongs much closer to the GCSE examinations. In reality, the best time to develop good revision habits is **now.**



You don't need to spend hours revising every night.

In fact, we would much rather see students develop a **realistic routine** that they can maintain throughout the year.



A little and often can make a significant difference.



Regularly revisiting knowledge helps students **remember** what they have learned and makes it easier to **build upon** that knowledge when new and more challenging material is introduced.

We encourage students to experiment with different strategies and discover what works best for them.

This might include:

- ✓ flashcards
- ✓ retrieval practice
- ✓ practice questions
- ✓ explaining a topic to somebody else
- ✓ revisiting areas they found difficult in lessons.



The most important thing is consistency.



Parents and carers can support this enormously without needing to become experts in every GCSE subject.

A simple question such as **"What are you working on at the moment?"** or **"What are you going to revise this week?"** can help students to reflect on their learning and take greater ownership of their progress.



Rest matters too!

A successful student is not one who spends every waking moment studying. Sleep, exercise, friendships, family time and interests outside school are all important parts of a healthy and successful school life.



Better habits today build brighter futures.



IMPACT Multi Academy Trust

A company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales with number 07697400

Registered office: Hawksbrook Lane, South Eden Park Road, Beckenham. BR3 3BE



Cont'd...

21st September 2026

At the end of April and the beginning of May, students will sit their **Year 10 end-of-year examinations**. Although these examinations may seem a long way away at the start of the year, we want students to understand that preparation for them begins with what they do **today**.

Every lesson they attend, every question they attempt, every piece of feedback they respond to and every topic they revisit contributes to their preparation.

The end-of-year examinations are not simply about grades. They will give students an opportunity to:

- See how much they have learned during Year 10.
- Identify areas where they are confident.
- Recognise topics that need further work.
- Develop their examination technique.
- Experience working under examination conditions.
- Build confidence before entering Year 11.

We will make sure that students receive information about the examination arrangements and revision expectations as the year progresses. There is absolutely no expectation that students should be worrying about these examinations now — **the focus at this stage is on building the habits that will make preparation manageable when the time comes**.

We believe in our Year 10 students:

Perhaps the most important message I would like to share is this:

We believe in your children.

Every student has different strengths, different experiences and different starting points. Some will feel very confident academically; others may need more encouragement. Some will know exactly what they want to achieve; others may still be discovering what they are capable of. That is okay. Our job is to help every student recognise their potential and give them the tools, guidance and encouragement to fulfil it.

To our students: **be brave enough to ask for help, determined enough to keep going when things are difficult and proud enough to celebrate your progress**. Do not compare your journey with somebody else's. Focus on becoming the best version of yourself.

To our parents and carers: **thank you for the support you provide every day**. We know that encouraging a young person through their secondary education is not always easy. There will be mornings when getting out of bed feels like a battle, evenings when revision is the last thing they want to do and times when you may not know how best to help. Please know that you can come to us.

We want communication between home and school to be open, positive and supportive. If something is affecting your child's attendance, wellbeing, motivation or progress, we would much rather know early so that we can work together to help.

Let's make it a year to be proud of:

Year 10 is not about being perfect.

It is about **turning up, trying, learning from mistakes, developing good habits and gradually becoming more confident and independent**.



A company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales with number 07697400
Registered office: Hawksbrook Lane, South Eden Park Road, Beckenham. BR3 3BE



Cont'd...

21st September 2026

If we can establish strong attendance, positive learning behaviours and consistent revision habits from the beginning of this year, our students will give themselves the very best opportunity to succeed — not only in their Year 10 examinations, but in Year 11 and beyond.

I am incredibly excited about the year ahead and about seeing our students grow in confidence, independence and ambition.

Let's work together, support one another and make Year 10 a year that our students can look back on with real pride.

Thank you for your continued support. We are very much looking forward to sharing this journey with you and your children.

Yours sincerely,
Mr D Redding
Year 10 Achievement Coordinator



A company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales with number 07697400
Registered office: Hawksbrook Lane, South Eden Park Road, Beckenham. BR3 3BE

