EATON BANK ACADEMY

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16th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of your child as they begin their GCSE journey with us. We have had an overwhelmingly positive start to the year, and it has been fantastic to see so many of our Year 10 pupils approaching their learning with such maturity, focus and ambition.

We have already had some really encouraging conversations with parents who have noticed a concerted change in their child's attitude towards study, revision and learning. To hear that these positive habits are already becoming evident at home, so early in the course, is a real positive and something we will continue to nurture and encourage in school.
Our first Success at GCSE Evening took place last week, and we would like to make sure that all parents and carers have access to the information and resources shared during the evening. Please access the attached PDF to access the communications and presentations from the evening. These contain important information about supporting your child through their GCSEs, as well as key dates and events for the year ahead.

We would particularly encourage you to look through the information carefully and add the relevant dates to your family calendar.

Key Year 10 Dates

- Y10 Preparation for Progress Exams Evening: Wednesday 20 January 2027
- Y10 Progress Exams: Monday 22 February – Friday 5 March 2027
- Y10 Parents' Evening: Thursday 22 April 2027
- Early Entry GCSE – Paper 1: Morning of Monday 24 May 2027
- Early Entry GCSE – Paper 2: Morning of Tuesday 8 June 2027
- Work Experience Week: Monday 28 June – Friday 2 July 2027

Early Entry GCSE Examinations

A small number of pupils will be sitting their GCSE examinations early. These pupils are taught by:

- Miss Shaw
- Miss Parker
- Mrs Cooper

For these pupils, the GCSE examinations take place on:

- Paper 1: Morning of Monday 24 May 2027
- Paper 2: Morning of Tuesday 8 June 2027

It is particularly important that pupils sitting their English GCSE early are not taken out of school for holidays or other avoidable absences during the preparation period. There is a considerable amount of essential teaching, preparation and examination practice taking place in the weeks leading up to these examinations. Missing this learning could have a significant impact on a pupil's ability to achieve a pass in their GCSE.

We therefore ask parents and carers to be especially mindful of these dates when making plans and, wherever possible, to ensure that pupils are in school every day during this important period.

There are also a number of other important dates and events detailed within the communications from the Success at GCSE Evening, so please do take some time to familiarise yourself with these.

The start that Year 10 have made has been incredibly encouraging. We know that GCSE study is a significant commitment, and the habits, attitudes and routines established now will make a real difference as pupils progress through the course. Our aim is to continue to work closely with you to encourage high aspirations, positive study habits and a genuine sense of pride in their learning.

Finally, thank you for your continued support and for the ambition you have for your young person this year. The partnership between home and school is hugely important, and we look forward to working with you throughout the GCSE journey to ensure that every pupil is supported to achieve their very best.

With thanks and best wishes,

David Washington and Shelley Knott
Assistant Headteacher and Head of Year