



30<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you that work experience, traditionally undertaken within Year 10 will now take place during the summer term of Year 12. Historically work experience took place in Year 10 to give students a taster within the world of work before leaving school at 16. However students are now required to continue in education or training until at least their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday meaning that a period of work experience is more helpful to students within the sixth form.

More recently feedback from students following their work experience in Year 10 has shown it had no impact on their post 16 choices and that they felt it hindered their studies towards their GCSEs. Students have found the newly reformed GCSEs challenging, therefore an added benefit of moving work experience would be additional time to study towards their GCSEs.

Additionally, work experience in Year 10 is limited due to more stringent health and safety restrictions in place for students under the age of 16. Whereas students that have completed a period of work experience in Year 12 have found this to be a valuable and worthwhile activity that in some cases has informed decisions about their future.

I appreciate that some students in Year 10 may have already been proactive and started to make arrangements for a work experience placement. Therefore for this year only, those students that have already secured a placement that is related to their future career aspirations can write and request a leave of absence to Mrs Eastwood. Please note that requests will be considered on an individual basis, students must show that the placement would be of benefit and make arrangements to keep up to date with any school work missed.

We would also encourage students to pursue work experience placements during the school holidays to inform their career decisions.

Yours Sincerely

*A Bousfield*

Mr A Bousfield

Head of Careers