



11/01/2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

New Head of Year Introduction

With the start of a new term and a change in the leadership of Year 10, I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself, outline effective routes of communication to ensure your concerns and views are dealt with speedily, and illuminate some key elements I will be speaking to the boys about over this coming term.

Firstly, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Daniel Hodder, and I have been Head of Geography at Victoria College since 2021. I started teaching in 2007; previous to this role, I worked as a resident boarding Housemaster at King's School, Bruton, in Somerset for five years, overseeing the pastoral care of 60 full-time boarders. I feel excited and very much look forward to my new role as Head of Year 10, and I hope to bring my experience from various pastoral roles to support your son during this period in his education at Victoria College.

My main priority in these opening weeks is to establish clear and effective lines of communication. I would like a flowing and constant dialogue between parents and tutors and, by extension, myself. Clearly, the busy school day will not allow my colleagues and me to respond at length; however, every insight, observation and disclosure from your son, in the context of your intimate knowledge of what makes them tick, will aid my team and me in providing the best possible pastoral care. To this end, I would encourage you to engage with email, drop your son's tutor, or indeed me, a few lines and allow us to build up a deep field of view on your son and how he is feeling week by week. Please don't always expect a long response, and at times a reply might be "understood with thanks", but my tutors and I will only benefit from your insight, and it will allow us to unpick situations which might arise during the school day.

Tutors

Braithwaite	Ms Edgecome	n.edgecombe@vcj.sch.je
Bruce	Ms Perestrelo	m.perestrelo@vcj.sch.je
Diamid	Dr Richardson	j.richardson@vcj.sch.je
Dunlop	Ms Aikenhead	e.aikenhead@vcj.sch.je
Sartorius	Ms Falla	e.falla@vcj.sch.je
Head of Year 10 Mr Hodder		d.hodder@vcj.sch.je

Finally, this term, I will be speaking and frequently referencing the two themes of kindness (to oneself and to others) and doing the best your son can do. These might sound slightly glib in this context; however, from my experience, this period of the GCSE cycle can be one where pupils start to become aware of the external exam process. This brings about pressure and anxiety, and typically young men of this age will bottle up these concerns.

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My goal for this term will be to arm your son with the toolkit to discuss and open up about any issues on their mind and to demonstrate the tutor system, and I am here to listen. I'd like to instil in students that they need to look after each other, understanding that success and achievement for each pupil will look different but that all of the boys in Year 10 should be applauded in the same way for each and every accomplishment.

If you have any questions, if you would like a face-to-face meeting, or indeed a call on Teams, please don't hesitate to reach out and contact me.

Kind Regards,

Daniel Hodder

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