



# Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

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Dear Parents / Carers,

Mrs Alliot and myself will be visiting Year 10 forms over the course of the next couple of weeks to discuss the importance of resilience, as pupils reach the halfway stage of their GCSE and BTEC courses and the challenges are increasing for them.

It is to be expected that pupils will frequently find subject content difficult. They may also occasionally find that some of the curriculum topics are unexciting or different to how they thought it might be. Different topics appeal to different pupils, and the courses designed by the exam boards have a range of materials that must be covered. It may be that your child will occasionally find part of a topic less interesting or difficult, but it must still be studied. Some pupils have argued that they do not 'need' a subject for their current future career plans so have decided they want to give it up.

We are experiencing a number of pupils saying they wish to 'drop' a subject because of these reasons. Often they say this because they hear their friend say it. It is important that you understand that this is **not** an option except in very rare exceptional and unusual circumstances, which would be considered on an individual basis and have no relation to the provision for other individuals. It is not in pupils' interests to reduce the number of subjects that they study and there is no evidence that reducing the number of subjects improves overall achievement for a pupil.

Developing resilience when work is hard is an important life skill that, as a team of parents, teachers and pastoral support, we help pupils to achieve. Children become stronger adults, better able to cope with life's challenges as a result. We would appreciate your support in encouraging your child to refocus, listen to their teacher's advice and remember that there are many positive aspects about the core and options choices they have made. While challenges will appear, hard work and resilience will mean that they can achieve their potential in their courses. Encouragement from adults to persevere is really helpful.

We have a wide range of support for exam preparation, including revision skills sessions in life skills and form times, dedicated revision skill sessions in curriculum time and resources to help pupils go over past work. We do not expect that pupils will achieve their target grades in the summer exams, and they still have a further year in which to develop their skills and techniques with help of their teachers. The GCSE courses are at times demanding, and year 10 is part of a journey which can be challenging. There is a great deal of support in school to help them achieve their potential in all of their subjects.

With best wishes,

**Mrs Langston**  
Assistant headteacher - Assessment and pupil progress.

*"Pupils flourish and support each other to succeed"*

