

## Welcome back!

As we conclude our first full week, I would like to share the message that I conveyed to the pupils during our first assembly of the year. It felt appropriate to start by celebrating the effort and dedication of our former Upper 5 and Upper 6 students, and their subsequent achievements at both GCSE and A Level. I shared a quote by Michelangelo for the pupils to reflect upon: "The greatest danger is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we reach it."

I encouraged our pupils to contemplate their own personal goals and to challenge themselves in all aspects of their lives. I urged each of them to embrace their true selves, as we anticipate celebrating their individuality and personal triumphs throughout the upcoming year.

I explained that no one is a finished product, and we can all strive to improve in everything we do. I emphasised that mistakes are a crucial part of the learning process. Without them, we cannot expect to improve.

We also had two very important evenings planned for this week, aligning with the theme of my assembly: the Lower 5 GCSE Information Evening on September 13th and the Upper 5 GCSE Information Evening on September 14th. It was fantastic to see so many parents and pupils attend the Lower 5 Evening, during which we discussed the academic year ahead, available support, and how to develop the vital academic skills required for GCSE and beyond. Unfortunately, we had to postpone the Upper 5 evening, which will now take place on Thursday, September 21st at 6:00 PM in the PAC.

I am certainly looking forward to another fantastic year at Gateways and embracing the wonderful opportunities that our staff have planned for our pupils.

Mrs Gemma Carver