

DTU/GBL

15 November 2017

Dear Parent / Carer

Year 8 Graduation and STEPs

As you will already know, we provide all our students with the opportunity to start their GCSE pathways at the start of Year 9 to maximise their full potential. In order that students in Year 8 are fully ready to engage in the challenges of GCSE requirements, we are introducing a graduation from Year 8. This is an opportunity for your child to prove that they have the motivation and effort required to start their GCSEs in Year 9.

The celebration of graduation will be taking place at **Thorp Academy** for all **Year 8** students who have proved themselves to be hardworking and committed learners who are ready to graduate. This commitment shows that they have the determination for them to succeed at Key Stage 4.

We base our decisions regarding graduation on each students STEPs report by looking carefully at effort grades, attendances and completing 3 Pledges (found in your child's planner).

Successful graduates will have a formal presentation to which you and their primary school teachers will be invited. Students will dress in caps and gowns to be awarded their scroll, and it is a great time to celebrate achievements so far. Alongside this, graduates will reserve their places on the graduation residential weekend taking place early in Year 9.

We believe all students who prove that they are hard-working and committed deserve to be celebrated. As part of this celebration we would like to invite you to join in these celebrations but understand that, as this will take part in the school day, it may be necessary for you to book time off from work.

The graduation ceremony will take place on **Monday 9 July 2018 at 3.15 pm** in the **Main Hall**.

There will be a follow up letter detailing the exact times when your child will graduate.

There will be a **Parents Information Evening on Tuesday 20 February 2018** should you have any questions about this process.

Yours faithfully



Mr Tucker
Vice Principal