24th January 2025

Dear Parent / Guardian,

**YEAR 10 BRIGHTSIDE ONLINE MENTORING PROJECT**

I am delighted to inform you that your child has been invited to participate in the Brightside online mentoring project.

Mentoring charity Brightside, in partnership with Laurel Park School, will be delivering an online mentoring project connecting young people with trained mentors online. The project aims to help young people get access to the information and guidance they need to find out more about their post-16 and post-18 options, whilst exploring possible career paths and developing their transferrable skills. Your child has expressed an interest and been selected to take part in the programme, and they will communicate with a mentor who is either a current working professional or university student.

They will communicate with their mentor through a safe and secure online mentoring website between January and March 2025 for a period of 8-10 weeks. Mentors will provide information, advice, and guidance about life after school, the different routes into careers/higher education pathways of interest (including university and apprenticeships), transferrable skills, and study skills - empowering young people to make the right choices for them in the future. Please support your child by encouraging them to participate and make the most out of having a mentor.

Brightside have been running online mentoring projects for 21 years and our number one priority is the safety of mentees. All communication takes place on Brightside’s online platform and app which complies with the latest data protection regulations. All messages, URLs and attachments sent over the site are visible to and monitored by the mentoring coordinator, and messages pass through a moderation filter. In order to use the online mentoring service, young people must be registered with Brightside and they must have a unique username and password, and agree to Brightside’s [Terms and Conditions](https://brightsidementoring.org/terms) and [Privacy Notice](https://brightsidementoring.org/privacy). The online mentoring platform has a security certificate and is a secure site. It is agreed and understood by all users that communications between a mentor and a mentee shall only take place through the Brightside site. All mentors are trained and must have an enhanced DBS (formally CRB) background check before they can start communication with their mentees.

All Year 10 students will have an introductory session during their PSHE lesson in school next week.

Further information about Brightside can be found here:<http://brightside.org.uk/>

Kind regards,

Ms N Gray

Associate Assistant Headteacher, Raising Standards Lead for Year 11 and Careers