



Year 11 update

Dear Year 11 student and parents/carers,

At the start of this academic year, I am writing to introduce myself as the Year 11 Progress Leader. My role is to support, guide and challenge our young people to achieve their potential in their upcoming exams. Pastoral care is still led by their Head of Year but I am here to focus on their academic progress.

The current climate has thrown so many new challenges in your child's path and I will be supporting them, alongside all staff in school, in ensuring that any negative effects of the past year are minimised. It has been wonderful to welcome our Year 11s into school over the past two weeks who overall, have conducted themselves superbly. I hope they have enjoyed the start of term so far and feel set for the year ahead.

GCSE Mindset

Whilst I unfortunately can't remove the uncertainty associated with next year's exams, I can aim to alleviate some stress and anxiety in assuring you and your child that if they approach this year with a focused and determined mindset, we will be doing all we can to ensure that they are prepared and ready for their GCSEs.

As opposed to concerning themselves with 'lost time' it is paramount that our Year 11s focus on "now" and what they should be doing at this stage of the year. Of utmost priority should be getting into a work routine: whilst hobbies and socialising are vital to shaping the wonderful young people they are, time must also be allocated each day to completing school work.

Sadly there is never 'no homework' in Year 11; *any* spare work time should be spent revisiting prior learning and completing revision activities. I will be sending some information home over the next few weeks to support this.



GCSEPod

If you aren't already aware of the fabulous resource that we use known as '**GCSEPod**', please view more information [here](#).

It really is a fantastic place for enhancing and consolidating knowledge and I encourage you to ensure that your child has activated their account and is using it regularly. It is completely free to use and will be of great benefit during the coming year. This resource has over 3,500 teacher-written, audio-visual podcasts produced specifically for mobile devices and containing all the right facts, quotes, keywords, dates and annotated diagrams that learners need for GCSE success.

Click [here](#) to access. Once registered, the app can be downloaded to a phone and podcast playlists can be created to help revise!

Tutor time activities

During tutor time, our Year 11s will be completing a wide range of activities aimed at developing a growth mindset, arming them with effective study skills and highlighting a range of proven revision techniques. Please encourage your child to reflect on these when working.

Class of 2022 Google Classroom page

All Year 11s have access to a Class of 2022 Google classroom page which has lots of information, links to websites and resources to support their study. Please keep reminding your Year 11 child to refer to this regularly.

1:1 and Group Support

Identified Year 11s will be supported with additional intervention sessions during tutor times to help them with understanding how to approach their studies. I will keep you informed if your child is involved but please don't hesitate to contact me if you feel that your child is struggling and would benefit from some additional guidance.

GCSE Revision Guides

Our [online school shop](#) will have a selection of GCSE revision guides for various subjects available to buy.

When placing an order, I strongly advise making your order with your son/daughter present so that you select the correct items. To order, you must have activated your ParentPay account. If you require your ParentPay information to be resent to you, please contact the [Finance Office](#) giving your child's name.

Important upcoming dates/events

Year 11 Learning Success Presentation - Friday 24 September - we will be sharing our virtual presentations via email on Friday evening in place of the usual 'in school' parent event. These will be available to watch at your convenience.

Parents' Evenings - Core - 4 November, Extension - 11 November. Meetings with subject staff will be via video call. Information about online bookings will be sent nearer the time.

Wednesday 3 November - Sixth Form Open Evening we are unable to hold the Open Evening in its usual format this year, and will share information about our virtual event nearer the time.

Monday 15 November – start of **Mock Examinations**. The timetable will be shared nearer the time.

I look forward to working with your child over the next few months.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Angela Parker
Year 11 Progress Leader





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