

Our ref: SST/HEW

12<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian,

**Re: Year 11 GCSE Examination Preparation**

As your son/daughter moves into the final year of their GCSE qualifications I would like to inform you of the support and provision that we will be offering throughout this critical academic year to help all of our students achieve the very best academic outcomes that they can. I would also like to remind you that all GCSE qualifications have now moved nationally from a A\*- U scale to the new 9-1 scale, whereby a 9 is the highest grade possible and a 1 is the lowest. Therefore, your son/daughter will receive a grade sheet next summer made up of numbers rather than letters.

Detailed below is a month by month overview of the key things that will be happening to help support Year 11 students and a number of dates for your diaries, as follows:

**September 2017:** By the end of this current week a new round of predicted grades will be collated by staff. These predictions will be analysed by the Senior Management Team and each student will receive a summary of their predicted grades. Please also note that these will be shared with you. Miss Letts, Miss Deane-Hall and I will meet with students, where applicable, to discuss their curriculum provision and how to support them further in anticipation of next summer's exams.

**October 2017:** On the **17<sup>th</sup> October** a study skills company called Elevate will be working with Year 11 to share an array of revision strategies with our students. Support sessions will run from 1pm to 3pm on the 17<sup>th</sup> October, with an early lunch. All Year 11 parents/guardians will be invited to a parental study skills talk by Elevate from 4pm to 5pm, followed by a parent consultation evening running from 5pm to 8pm.

**November 2017:** All Year 11 students will face a first round of mock examinations. It is important that students both revise and take these examinations seriously as they will provide a real benchmark for their likely outcomes next summer.

**December 2017:** We will be asking staff to submit information and data on your son/daughter's progress to date and a report will be sent to all parents. The information from these reports will be used to inform the targeted support that is given to students in 2018. Again, Miss Letts, Miss Deane-Hall and I will meet with students, where applicable, to discuss their curriculum provision and how to support them further in anticipation of next summer's exams.

**January 2018:** All Year 11 students will have a 15 minute meeting with a member of the Senior Management Team to discuss their academic progress to date and their Post 16 plans. There will also be 2 Super Learning days, where Year 11 students will come off timetable and be given support by a leading examiner for English Language and English Literature.

**February 2018:** Year 11 students will face a second round of mock examinations. Again, it is important that students take these exams seriously and revise for them. The outcomes from these exams will provide staff and students with a realistic benchmark of their likely academic outcomes in their final GCSE examinations. These outcomes will also determine which

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students do/do not receive a mentor to support them in the build up to their final examinations. That said, if a student/parent feels that a mentor is needed and we, as a school, have not assigned one then we will do so. There will also be a Super Learning day in February, where Year 11 students will be taken off timetable for one day and given support with Science. After February half term we will be running Period 6 (after school) support/revision sessions for Year 11 students as follows:

Monday: All subjects  
Tuesday: Maths  
Wednesday: English  
Thursday: Science  
Friday: All subjects

**March 2019:** On the 22<sup>nd</sup> March all students will formally receive their mock exam outcomes. There will then be a second GCSE revision skills session delivered by Elevate to Year 11 students, which will run from 1pm to 3pm, with an early lunch for Year 11 students. From 4pm to 5pm all Year 11 parents/guardians are invited to attend a study skills talk, again delivered by Elevate. This will then back into a Year 11 parent consultation evening running from 5pm to 8pm.

**April 2019:** There will be a super learning day for all Year 11 students, whereby the year group will be taken off timetable for a full day and given key support with maths by a leading examiner for the subject.

I hope that the above gives you a flavour of the support and additional provision that we will be offering our Year 11 students. I will, at relevant points, write to you again to give you more detail regarding the key events where parental attendance is requested. I would urge all students to speak to their subject teachers about purchasing relevant revision guides to support their independent revision at home.

If you have any questions regarding the above then please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Strickland  
**Principal**