

5th September 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: Year 11 expectations and key dates

Students started the final phase of their GCSE courses today. The next year will continue to present new challenges and opportunities and all students will be expected to work hard in order to achieve, or possibly exceed, their GCSE target grades. As many of you will be aware the GCSE specifications have changed significantly in the last couple of years with many subjects now including some content that was previously studied at post-16 level. As such some students may experience disappointments during this time but, in order to succeed, they need to learn to see these as opportunities to improve rather than as failures. Resilience should therefore be encouraged at every opportunity.

Parents/guardians can support students, during year 11, by ensuring that they

- Are in school and ready to begin learning at 08:30am
- Meet the school's attendance target of 96.5%
- Attend school with the appropriate equipment e.g. calculator, 2 pencils, 2 pens and 30cm ruler as well as the correct exercise/text books or sports kit
- Have somewhere quiet to complete homework – the absence of distractions, such as mobile telephones and games consoles, is particularly beneficial
- Continue to engage in private reading as this has a positive effect on literacy
- Complete private study and revisit earlier topics regularly – revision is an ongoing process and not just for next week's exam!

Students should adhere to the school's uniform and hair policy as follows:

Clothing and bags (Year 7 – 11)

- Black blazer with school badge
- Plain white shirt and year appropriate school tie
- Black trousers, dark grey/black socks
- Black v-neck sweater (school badge optional)
- Clean black formal shoes (not boots)
- Jewellery must not be worn
- Black/dark outdoor coat – no motifs (other than the school's mitre) should be apparent
- Black plain school bag – no motifs (other than the school's mitre) should be apparent
- School scarves are available from the main office at £10 each (optional)
- Hair must be neat and respectable, with no extremes of style – please see below
- Students must be clean shaven



Students are not permitted to wear 'skins' below their shirts. White thermal vests may be worn if students feel the cold.

Hair

Whilst we understand that fashions change over time, hair must be neat and respectable, with no extremes of style. Hair should:

- Not be shaved any shorter than a hairdresser's number 3
- Be no longer than the top of the blazer collar
- Not cover the eyes
- Be clean
- Be its natural colour and must not have coloured streaks
- Not have any lines or symbols cut into it
- Not be sticking up with an excess of hair product

Forgetful students

We have adopted a policy of not accepting any forgotten items (equipment, PE kits, lunch items etc) dropped off by parents during the school day. This is to help the students realise the need to prepare appropriately for each school day. It is most important that students take responsibility for their organisation and accept the consequences should they not be. Although we appreciate this may be inconvenient we would appreciate your support over the coming year. The receptionists will not accept any forgotten items on behalf of students. The only caveat to this is: gumshields and medication.

Year 11 Standards Evening

The year 11 standards evening will take place at 7pm in the main hall on Tuesday 25th September 2018.

Year 11 Mock Examinations

The year 11 mock examinations will take place between Monday 10th December and Wednesday 19th December 2018. However, individual French and German spoken examinations will take place between Wednesday 28th November and Friday 30th November 2018.

Year 11 Parents' Evening

The year 11 parents' evening will take place on Thursday 17th January 2019.

Should you have any questions or concerns please contact your son's tutor in the first instance. Subject specific queries should be directed to your son's class teacher. Your continued support is, as always, greatly appreciated and we look forward to working with you as your son prepares to take his GCSE examinations.

Yours sincerely,



Dr M. Fisher
Head of Year 11