



16 October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

October update for Year 11

On Monday this week your son/daughter's teachers started the latest round of progress checks for Year 11. Recent assessments and class work will be used to formulate their current progress, matched against their target grades. This will serve to highlight both their strengths and also areas of further development, which should target what additional support they require. These progress checks will go home after the half-term break (more details to follow).

Hopefully you will have seen the announcement on Monday by Gavin Williamson (Secretary of State for Education) stating that examinations for Year 13 and Year 11 will go ahead next summer, underpinned by contingencies for all possible scenarios. The majority of exams will start after the May half-term break, except for English and Mathematics where students will sit one paper before the holiday. The results day has also been moved by one week and has now been scheduled for Thursday 27 August. I assume more details will be released over the next few weeks concerning next summer's exams, and I will keep you posted on any further developments.

Normally, in November we would hold a parent/student information evening where all Heads of Curriculum would give a presentation on how to succeed in their subject area, how to support your son/daughter and the next steps prior to the November examinations and beyond. Unfortunately, we cannot do this due to the current COVID restrictions. However, I have great pleasure in advising that all curriculum leaders have provided an audio presentation which can be located on our Year 11 page. I would strongly recommend that you look at these presentations with your son/daughter as this will help with their revision process and will also give you the necessary information to support them at home during this time. This should be ready for all to access by Tuesday 20 October.

There is no escaping the fact that revising for GCSE exams involves many hours of personal study, and the November examinations are no different. Your son/daughter's examinations will commence on Monday 23 November, and these will provide all parties with the necessary information on students' strengths and areas needed for future development. It is **crucial** that students approach these exams in a **mature** and **logical** manner, as this will set the foundation of revision for their final examinations which commence in May. I shall be asking all teachers of Year 11 to post on Satchel One the topic areas that are being assessed to avoid any time being wasted on those areas not being covered.

Before your son/daughter starts revising they need to make sure that they have a complete set of notes for each subject. Students need to be careful that they don't spend too much time on subjects they like or are good at and neglect their less favoured subjects. It should be noted that most topics they study will have to be revised more than once, tested regularly and often several times before the information sinks in. We have been doing a lot of this at school and we call it *retrieval* - a term your son/daughter should be aware of.

Over the half-term break we would really appreciate your help with the following:

- Get your son/daughter to check that all their class notes are up to date, with no gaps.
- If they are unsure about the topics they have studied, suggest they email or ask their subject teachers for a list.
- Encourage them to work on those areas where they feel less confident and the subjects/topics they don't like, as well as the subjects/topics they like and are good at.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at school. Once again, thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mark Taylor

ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER

DIRECTOR OF ATTAINMENT, LEARNING AND PROGRESS FOR YEAR 10 & 11

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Calendared events:

12 October 2020	Year 11 Progress Checks commence
20 October 2020	Year 11 Parent Information Presentations available to view
5 November 2020	Year 11 Progress Checks home
23 November – 4 December	Year 11 Autumn Examinations
13 January 2021	Year 11 Examination Results Day
20 January 2021	Year 11 Parents' Evening