

6th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers of year 11 students

Important information for January and February 2022

I hope that the new year has progressed well for you so far.

I am writing on our second day back to keep you informed. It was good to see that year 11 students settled well into lessons as they returned yesterday. As I have said to you before, they are a great year group with the right mind-set to focus on preparation for and to work hard towards their exams.

GCSE examinations for year 11 are set to happen in May and June 2022

The government are very unlikely to cancel exams this summer.

The work of teaching and preparing pupils in years 11 and 13 for their terminal exams continues and pupils should continue to work hard to be ready for the summer exams. In school we continue to carry out assessments and every lesson counts towards exam success.

To be successful, students must do all they can to work hard in lessons, to attend school if well and to carry out home learning and study. In previous communications I have given advice to parents and carers relating to study and learning for these exams and I reiterate a key message here about regular review of learning as part of a long-term revision programme that your child will need to organise each week.

Year 11 students have been taught how to make 'life timetables', to support organising self-study time over a longer period. We know that students are far more likely to feel overwhelmed or demotivated if there is too much left to do at the end of the course, so daily reviews of learning and revision are the key to improve memory retention of lots of facts and information needed for exam success and to be mentally in control of exam readiness. Last minute cramming is the most unsuccessful way to prepare for exams.

We will continue to teach and model to year 11 students the best research proven ways to learn and prepare for exams.

Postponement of the face-to-face year 11 parent consultation evening on 14th January and move to an online parent consultation evening

Due to the current Covid-19 situation, we have decided to cancel the face-to-face in-school parent consultation evening and we will book a date very soon for an online parent consultation evening. A large gathering of people in school is not sensible at this time.

Meeting parents and discussion your child's progress is very important to us, so we will re-arrange the date very soon and I will write to you as soon as we have a date. We will be deploying the assistance of an online parent consultation company to support the event.

Year 11 pre-public exam results (PPEs-mocks) and references for post-16 interviews

On 16th December 2021 each year 11 student was handed a hard copy to take home of

- Their PPE results
- School reference, which includes attendance information and behaviour information

If any student was absent, Mr Dowe, the Year 11 Achievement Coordinator, will distribute this week. Your child should have shared the information with you before we broke up for the holidays.

It is very important that your child takes these results seriously, is aware of his/her strengths, and more importantly of the next steps to take to close gaps in any weaker areas. Teachers have and are going through the papers to review the learning and we have only 16 weeks and in some subjects only 16 lessons or less until the exams start, so work continues to support pupils to progress further and to be ready for their final exams.

Final Pre-public exams in March 2022

Week of 7th-11th March 2022, we will hold the last series of PPEs/mocks and these exams will support students to make the final efforts to be ready for the final exams from 1st May 2022.

Online webinars for every year 11 student from 24^h January in English, Maths and Science- 20 hours per subject (60 hours of additional support per student)

A few weeks ago I wrote to you to tell you about the year 11 20-week webinar programme in GCSE English, Maths and Science tailored to your child's ability range with a company called 'Impress the Examiner'. The school has actively researched the best companies in the market to deliver online webinars to support your child's progress as the exam period approaches. The school is paying for all year 11 pupils to be enrolled.

We employed this company last summer to work with a group of year 10 students with much success.

We are currently preparing information for the company to enrol your child. This is a fantastic opportunity for your child to participate in additional learning without you funding the very expensive cost of tuition. The courses last up to 20 weeks/until the summer exams. The programme starts the week of 24th January 2022.

Your child will receive their username and password very soon. These need to be kept safe.

Here is the programme timetable:

[Impress Year 11 Programme Timetable from January 2022](#)

I will write to you very soon with dates for the online parent consultation evening.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs A Lloyd
Principal- Secondary and Sixth Form Phases