



September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 11 Raising Achievement

Welcome back! It has been lovely to see Year 11 in school this week, and they have made an excellent return, showing real focus and determination to succeed in this very important year. We look forward to working with them across the course of the year to help them achieve their goals and ambitions.

In tutor time this week we have worked on independent study, and the importance of constructing an independent revision timetable from the very beginning of the year. We would recommend students in Year 11 study for around two hours per day (including home-learning), and we have found it extremely important for students to establish this habit from the beginning of the year in order to prepare successfully for the trial examinations, and then the GCSE examinations at the end of the year. Students have been given a list of topics studied in Year 10 and asked to identify their strengths and weaknesses and use this analysis to form a revision timetable. The list also contains ideas for how they might revise for each subject.

In order to help establish these habits and to offer support, we will be running 'Session 6' in the LRC Monday to Thursday, beginning on 14 September. This is a silent independent revision session where students will work individually on their own work, but where there are teachers available to help should they need it. There will not be a full range of subject teachers every day, but revision help is always available. If they wish to use this, students should arrive at 3.20pm and leave at 4.20pm. They may listen to music on their headphones but otherwise phones are not to be used. Previous Year 11 students have found Session 6 very helpful in establishing independent revision habits and in completing an hour of home learning or revision before they come home each day. We look forward to seeing our new Year 11 students there.

Dr van der Spoel, who specialises in revision strategies, will be spending a day with us on 24 September to work with Year 11 over the course of the day. He will also be doing a virtual session for Year 11 parents; details of this will follow. Feedback on Dr van der Spoel from both parents and students is always excellent; he is extremely motivational and has some excellent tips for the students.

All parents and carers are also able to sign up to Dr Kathy Weston's Tooled Up Education; this includes a range of resources to support with student well-being. Further information is available through the e-bulletin.

We are looking forward to a year of hard work and great success with our new Year 11. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's revision and work in school then please do not hesitate to contact either of us, or the relevant class teacher.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of Mrs R Kingston in cursive script.

Mrs R Kingston
Assistant Headteacher

Handwritten signature of Miss S Gee in cursive script.

Miss S Gee
Head of Year 11