

Planning for Success!

Update for Y11 parents

Year 11 have had a tumultuous last two years, and we now need to work together to support them so that we minimise, to the best of our ability, the impact of these past two years on their next steps.

I am pleased to say that a lot of our students responded well to our Four steps to Y11 plan in Y10 and the bridging work set over the summer and have worked hard to minimise the impact of the last two years.

Currently the government is stating that formal GCSE examinations will be going ahead next Summer, with adjustments to compensate for the time students have missed. This is things like giving students data sheets in examinations, reducing coursework and practical elements from some subjects, Ofqual will announce key topics that will be tested in February, so we can plan for their final examination.

We also need to be prepared for the possibility that there may have to be a teacher assessed grade element to their final examinations, should we have extensive further disruption due to Covid over this winter.

With all this uncertainty we need to make sure now that all pupils are fully prepared for the challenges that this brings.

All students have been informed that there will be practice exams in the two weeks beginning 15th November. These will mirror as closely as possible the procedures and routines that will be expected of them in the Summer examinations. This means that the students will receive an examination timetable and all examinations will be taken in hall or gym, under strict examination conditions. (There will be alternative arrangements for those pupils who need readers, rest breaks, extra time etc. but still in line with examination guidelines)

Their subject teachers have informed students of the topics they need to revise and all students have had a suggested revision timetable shared with via the Y11 Student Hub and via email. This will be on the website for you to access. I would be recommending, that where possible, students will be working for about 1.5 to 2 hours per day at home in the lead up to these examinations on their home learning and revision.

Just to make it more realistic, students will have all their result issued formally as we will be holding a mock results day. They will receive all their results in an envelope, just like they will in August. We have done this pre- Covid, and it has had a significant impact on students, motivating them to improve, raising their confidence and, in some cases, opening their eyes to exactly what they need to do to get the grades they want.

To allow time for students to reflect on their results, and so for a more meaningful conversations, we have decided to move the Y11 Parents evening planned for 9th December, back to January – the new date will be confirmed early November

You will be receiving SAR1 for Y11 in week of 15th November, so this will give you an indication of your child's current progress, along with the regular Attitude to Classroom learning grades. If you have any concerns or questions, you can always email the subject tutor or their form tutor.

We have a provisional date of 30th June for the Y11 Summer Ball (Prom). This will be held at the Castle Park Rugby Club, Armthorpe.

We are very excited to be able to arrange this for Y11 – hopefully the first celebration we have been able to hold for two years! We would like every Y11 student to attend this celebration, but whether they attend is down to the choices they make. Pupils whose behaviour persistently impacts on the learning of others, pupils who regularly arrive late to lesson (which disrupts their own and others learning) and show little respect to the staff of the school or their peers are choosing to exclude themselves from this celebration. The majority of students who try their best, are on time and participate fully in the life of the school, impacting on others in a positive way, will be welcomed

We will share more information about our Summer Ball plans later in the year – please be mindful that the date is Provisional and dependent on Covid situation

Should you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact either your child's form tutor, or subject tutors.

Have a lovely half term

Jill Taylor

Key stage Manager Y11