



September 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

At the start of such an important academic year I thought it would be helpful to outline the year ahead and provide some information on how the school and I will support your child through the final year of their GCSE courses.

The journey through Year 11 can bring many challenges, including; completing the course syllabus, meeting coursework deadlines and developing effective revision and exam techniques. It can be a stressful and challenging year, but rest assured, as a pastoral team, we are vastly experienced in supporting young people through this journey.

It is crucial that students start investing greater time outside of the school day into their studies. Adopting a good revision routine at home will enable them to become more confident in their knowledge and understanding of the subjects they are studying. At this stage of Year 11, students should be completing 1 hour of revision per night in addition to homework, with slightly more at weekends. This should increase to 2 hours in the lead up to mock exams and after Christmas. The students who adopted the recommended revision routines, were the ones celebrating fantastic GCSE results this summer, regardless of ability – it's no coincidence!

Faculties will offer a variety of both optional and compulsory lunchtime and after-school sessions in most subjects, aimed at developing students' understanding of course material and developing exam technique. Please encourage your child to take advantage of these extra sessions, particularly given the increased content and difficulty of the reformed GCSEs they are studying. Revision sessions will start at various points throughout the year; full details will be put on the school website (Parent Communications/Year 11). Just before the mocks and all the way through to the final exams in May, we will be running 'The Revision Room' in the Library – this is a supervised study session that runs twice a week (later 3 times) where students bring revision material, can receive guidance about revision techniques and complete an hour and a half of silent revision. It will be running 3:10 – 4:45pm (days TBC).

Students will also be using form time each morning to support their revision in specific subjects. This initiative is aimed at maximising the opportunities students have to study and gain support from their teachers and peers. We will also be delivering sessions in form periods which will focus on revision tips and techniques to help students to identify which method best suits their learning. Following the large number of new GCSE specifications, we are in the process of updating the GCSE Personalised Learning Checklists (PLCs) on the school website. Once complete, they will be accessible in: Curriculum/Year 11 PLCs. These are essential checklists for revision and we strongly

HEADTEACHER: MR GWYN WILLIAMS

LYMM HIGH SCHOOL, OUGHTRINGTON LANE, LYMM, WA13 0RB
01925 755458 INFO@LYMMHIGH.ORG.UK WWW.LYMMHIGH.ORG.UK



recommend students print each one off for the subjects they study and complete the red/amber/green analysis for each topic or concept. These can then be taken along to revision sessions where students can target those red or amber areas, in which they are less secure.

Students will complete a number of mock examinations throughout the year to test their knowledge, understanding and application under exam conditions. It is really important that as parents you are aware when these are, in order to best support your child with their preparation. The dates are:

- 17th October: Maths Mock 1 (1 paper)
- w/c 13th November: English Language and Literature Mock 1 (4 papers)
- w/c 11th December – w/e 22nd December: Formal mock examination period in all subjects (inc. Maths Mock 2 (3 papers), but not English)
- w/c 12th February: English Language and Literature Mock 2 (4 papers)
- w/c 12th March: Maths Mock 3 (3 papers)

Your child will be given a personalised exam timetable for the formal mock period, indicating specific dates, times and seats for each subject. Please see Parent Communications/Year 11 or Exams for all information related to examinations, but please note that the first exam timetable is always provisional (and named as such) as exams are still subject to change by the exam boards until the final timetable is published.

As Head of Year I am excited about the year ahead. I know our students have an extremely supportive environment in school enabling them to thrive and achieve their full potential. It is however vital that we don't under estimate the hard work needed to be successful and that all parties work collectively to support our students along the way.

I will be hosting an Information and Guidance evening for Year 11 parents on Thursday 28th September at 6pm in the Main Hall. This will provide vital information on how best to support your child in Year 11. I look forward to seeing you all there. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further advice or information.

Yours faithfully



Mr M. Thompson
Head of Year 11