

Dear parents/carer,

It is quite hard to believe that we have now come to the end of our first half term! Over the last seven weeks we have been incredibly impressed by our Year 11 students. Not only have they demonstrated resilience and enthusiasm in immersing themselves into their final year of their GCSE courses, but they have also handled the new operational changes with a real sense of maturity.

We understand that for some students, the return to school after quite some time of absence, was a fairly worrying thought, particularly in regards to any lesson content which may have been missed during the period of school closure. However, now that we have returned and have had the opportunity to informally assess where the students are up to and what content is left to cover, we are confident that our students are in a strong position.

As many of you may have read, there have been a number of changes made to the content of different GCSE courses which has made the course content much more straight forward to deliver in the time scale available. You may or may not also be aware that in supporting schools and students due to sit their GCSE examinations in the summer of 2021, the government have now confirmed a delay of 3 weeks to the GCSE timetable, meaning that external GCSE examinations will commence from 7th June 2021. Again, we believe that this delay will be of benefit to our Year 11 students, allowing them additional time to work collaboratively with their subject teachers in preparation for their final exams.

I will write to you again as we return from our half term holiday with key information regarding our support sessions which will be available for Year II students in the run up to their mock exams. A reminder that the mock exams will run from 7th December through until the 18th December. The programme of study support will incorporate a range of both targeted (invite only) and open revision sessions across a range of subjects. Additionally, all Year II students have been registered for access to GCSE Pod and Tassomai which are fantastic revision tools that students can access on their phones at any time, offering them short, sharp bursts of information that they can use as part of an active revision strategy.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your support over this first half term. Success can only truly be achieved by working in partnership together and we are very appreciative of the parental support that we have so far received as we work hard to look after the well-being and progress of our Year 11 students. It will be really important for them to enjoy the half term break, getting some well-earned rest and relaxation to give them plenty of energy as they return to the challenges of revision and mock preparation next half term.

Yours sincerely,

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