

Dear Parent/Carer

Firstly, I really hope that you have all had a lovely summer and that our Year 11 students are looking forward to returning to school, in what is a much more 'normal' environment. I am certainly pleased to be continuing to work with Year 11. At the start of this crucial academic year, I thought it would be useful to outline key information on what will be expected from the students in Year 11, and how the school and I plan to support them as they embark upon the final year of their GCSE courses.

Last year was certainly a challenge, with students getting to grips with the pressures of deadlines and the academic rigour demanded from them in the first year of their GCSE courses, but their drive to succeed has been incredibly encouraging. We could not have predicted the circumstances in which they enter Year 11, but I know that they have worked hard throughout the past few months with their online lessons and we have every confidence they will not let these conditions hinder their overall success.

This year, students will not only have the support from myself as Head of Year, but they will also be working alongside Miss Brown as our Pastoral Manager and Miss Taylor, our Assistant Headteacher who oversees raising standards across Year 11. As a Year 11 team, we will be supporting students with managing their workload effectively, how to adopt an effective revision routine, directing them to specific subject intervention sessions as well as looking after their emotional and mental well-being. Whilst Year 11 can often be a stressful and challenging year for students, rest assured that we are vastly experienced in guiding them through the journey.

With a linear approach to the majority of examinations, there is a greater emphasis and demand for students to retain and recall previous knowledge. Therefore, it is imperative that students start to invest greater time outside of the school day into their studies. Adopting an effective revision routine at home will enable them to become more confident in their knowledge and understanding of key content in their courses. As a rough guide, students should be spending a minimum of 1 hour revision per night in addition to their homework, with slightly more at weekends. This should increase to at least 2 hours in the run up to mock exams. It is no coincidence that the students celebrating excellent GCSE examination results were those who adopted a revision routine and stuck to it rigorously throughout the year.

To support students with their revision routines, faculties will be offering their own specific guidance and 'tools' for success such as knowledge organisers, vocabulary lists and past paper questions. Additionally, we will have a variety of optional and compulsory intervention sessions both at lunchtime and after-school, aimed at developing students' understanding of course material and practicing exam technique. More specific information around these sessions will be discussed at our Year 11 Information and Guidance evening being held on **Thursday 9th September 2021** which you will be able to access virtually. The link for this is attached at the end of this letter, and a reminder will be sent out via text this week.

Whilst the support and resources that we offer will prove invaluable to our students, it can only be maximised if they attend school on time each day, taking full advantage of the opportunities provided. Maintaining excellent attendance is more crucial than ever before to ensure that students do not fall behind in their courses or miss vital intervention sessions available to them. Whilst we understand that illness is sometimes simply unavoidable, at Lymm High School we strive for students to have attendance above 97%, dropping below this figure has the potential to impact negatively upon their final grade.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to some of the key dates to note for this academic year:

| Activity | Date |
|--|------------------------------|
| Year 11 starts | 07/09/2021 |
| Year 11 Information Evening | 09/09/2021 (starting at 6pm) |
| 'Make it Stick' revision support evening | 21/10/2021 |
| Sixth Form Open Evening | 11/11/2021 |
| Mock Exams | 01/12/2021 – 14/12/2021 |
| Mock results day | 19/01/2022 |
| Year 11 Parents' Evening | 27/01/2022 |
| Core Mock Exams | 28/02/2022 - 04/03/2022 |
| Easter School | TBC |
| External GCSE Exams | TBC |
| Year 11 Prom | 30/06/2022 |
| Whole school Awards Evening | 14/07/2022 |
| GCSE Results Day 2022 | TBC |

This list is not exhaustive, as there will be ongoing revision and interventions over the year and further parental support sessions that we will update you on once finalised.

I am confident that they have the correct environment to thrive and succeed with a strong team working alongside them to guide them each step of the way. It is, of course, important to remember that success requires hard work and persistence. By advocating this message both at home and at school, together we can support them along the way.

Should you have any queries or questions please see the list of key contacts below to help you identify the best person to contact:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Subject specific query/concern | Subject teacher or Head of Faculty |
| Student welfare query/concern | Miss Brown (Year 11 Pastoral Manager) |
| General progress query/concern | Form tutor |
| More serious/complex concerns | Mrs Wagstaff (Head of Year) |
| Exam query | Communications and Exams section of the school website |

We look forward to speaking to you this Thursday at 6pm, using the link below:

<https://lymmhigh-org-uk.zoom.us/j/92438509053?pwd=TnFwblFqY0JvNWFTVkdNVct0dDFkQT09>

Yours faithfully,

Mrs J. Wagstaff

Head of Year 11