

September 2023

Dear Parent/ Carers,

Welcome back to the new 2023/24 Academic year, after what I hope has been an enjoyable and restful summer. As we venture onto the most important chapter of your child's education by moving to Year 11, I thought that it is important to set exceptional standards and communicate some key messages as we move forward to this crucial year.

As I'm sure you are already aware, this year is vital for our year 11 students with the year culminating in their GCSE examinations. Our students are now in the final phase of their secondary learning journey and will be asked to show their maturity, resilience, and dedication more than ever, to ensure that they make the expected progress and reach their full potential. To ensure that all students achieve this we have the following high expectations:

- Students will arrive to school on time every day to join morning mood and registration.
- Students will be dressed according to the school uniform policy.
- Students will be prepared to learn with the correct equipment.
- Students will follow the behaviour expectations and fully engage in their learning.
- Attendance is key to achievement – we set the standard of 96%.

Being Year 11 students, there will be opportunities to join enrichment activities afterschool from 2:50pm. These will range from extra support lessons, homework spaces, sports and music clubs etc. This year there will be sunset revision lessons after school to help students with their knowledge and exam preparation for key subjects. Maths will start on Tuesday 19th September and English on Wednesday 20th September.

Last year was a very positive experience for our GAA students and the year 11 pastoral team are dedicated to supporting your child with the transition into year 11. We know that this can be a daunting period of exam preparation for students, adjusting to the workload of the GCSE courses reaching their conclusion. The students worked incredibly throughout last year to achieve and we must keep the high aspirations with the same level of effort and application. I wholeheartedly believe that this year will be even more of a success and celebration of achievement. This will be concluded in July when we meet for our traditional 'Prom' evening, where we will all be together one last time, in celebration of a year of hard work and success.

I, and the year 11 team, continue to look forward to working with all parents and carers over the next academic year. With your full support I am sure that Year 11 will be a hugely successful year for your child. As always, feel free to contact any member of the pastoral staff of the Year 11 team if you have any concerns or questions.

Yours Faithfully

Mr L. Ludford

Head of Year 11
Great Academy Ashton