

26th January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is my pleasure to welcome back all our Year 11 students to the new 2024 calendar year, after what I hope has been an enjoyable and restful Christmas break. As we venture into the most important chapter of your child's education by moving to the final part of Year 11, I thought that it is important to keep setting exceptional standards and communicate some key messages as we move forward to the most pivotal part of your child's education so far.

As I'm certain you are already aware, the coming months are vital for our year 11 students with their school experience 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%.

With GCSE examinations looming, there are many vital opportunities to join enrichment activities after school from 2:50pm. These range from extra support lessons, homework spaces, and subject specific sunset sessions. These sunset revision sessions are there to help students with their knowledge and exam preparation for key subjects. Maths are on a Tuesday and English on a Wednesday. All other subjects are available on every other night. Your child will have a full timetable so they can take advantage of these sessions and ensure they are guided in their revision and preparation for their exams. It is proven that attendance at these extra periods, will improve their grades and give structure and focus to their preparation. Please support your child in attending these. It is more crucial than ever that we work together to ensure the best possible outcomes for our Year 11.

This year so far, has been a very positive experience for our students and the year 11 pastoral team are dedicated to supporting your child with the move towards exam season. We know that this can be a daunting period for students, adjusting to the workload of the GCSE examinations and their time at school reaching its conclusion. The students have worked incredibly hard throughout the 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 June 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 hope your child is looking forward to this and the criteria for invitation to the prom will be laid out in an assembly on February 19th. It promises to be a wonderful celebration of all the hard work, endeavour and achievement that Year 11 have put in, particularly over the last 12 months.

I, and the year 11 team, continue to look forward to working with all parents and carers over the coming months. 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