

December 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope this letter finds you well as we approach the latter part of the academic year and the festive season, a time for cherished moments with family and friends.

It has been wonderful to welcome our Year 11 students back as they continue their GCSE journey through Key Stage 4. This term has been exceptionally busy, with preparations for the November mock exams in full swing. I am proud to share that our students approached these exams with great dedication and demonstrated excellence throughout.

As part of their afternoon lesson, *Reg and Read*, Year 11 students have been reading *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris. This has now transitioned into exploring non-fiction texts, further enhancing their literacy skills—a critical component of their academic growth.

This term, we also hosted a Career's Fair at GAA, where representatives from colleges, sixth forms, the Army, and other organizations shared insights about their curriculums and activities. Our students actively engaged with the exhibitors, asking insightful questions about qualifications, experience, and workplace skills. The feedback from our visitors was overwhelmingly positive, with many praising the enthusiasm and maturity of our young people.

Following the fair, Year 11 students attended open evenings at various colleges and sixth forms. These visits provided valuable opportunities to meet staff and students, gaining a deeper understanding of college life and its expectations. Additionally, we organized an afternoon for individual interviews with college representatives, which again received positive feedback. The Year 11 students continue to be a credit to both our school and their families.

To celebrate their hard work and achievements, we will hold our end-of-term Celebration Assembly. During this event, students will be recognized for their effort, attainment across all subjects, attendance, and progress. Form tutors and I will also award special commendations for outstanding dedication and contribution. This enjoyable afternoon underscores our shared values of togetherness and pride in the GAA community.

As we look ahead to the new year, the Year 11 journey through Key Stage 4 intensifies. January promises to be a busy month, with a theatre trip to see *An Inspector Calls* organized by the English Department, followed by the second round of mock exams at the end of the month. In February, we will participate in National Apprenticeship Week, which highlights the incredible opportunities apprenticeships offer young people. This event provides a fantastic chance to explore alternative pathways to success.

By the time you receive this letter, we will have held the Year 11 Parents' Evening. I anticipate another productive event, as our students continue to embrace challenges with enthusiasm, engaging in lessons and activities designed to develop the skills and qualities necessary for life beyond the classroom.

At Great Academy, we are proud of our GREAT values: Genuine, Respect, Excellence, Achieve, Together. These values are central to everything we do, and we greatly appreciate your ongoing support in encouraging students to demonstrate them daily. They are truly at the heart of our community.

Thank you once again for your continued support. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Year 11 pastoral team at [greenpastoral@gaa.org.uk](mailto:greenpastoral@gaa.org.uk).

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. J Ellis  
*Head of Year 11*