

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been wonderful to welcome our students back to school this week. Even though we are a smaller community this year, the atmosphere has been incredibly positive, and the students have settled quickly into routines. Classrooms are already full of focus, enthusiasm and laughter, and it's been a joy to see everyone supporting one another so well. In my letter to you last week, I did say that I was going to provide more important updates. Please see below.

GCSE Exam Preparation (Ms Furness)

In order to make sure our Year 11 students are fully prepared for their exams in the summer, we offer a Get Exam Ready Programme and two sets of trial exams.

Our Get Exam Ready programme was incredibly popular with last year's Year 11 and many credited it for building their confidence with revision and ultimately helping them to achieve their grades. By staying after school for an additional 30-minutes, students can benefit from staff expertise in how to revise for each of their subjects. The first round begins on Monday 08 September, and we hope to see all students choosing to stay. Sessions run from 15:20-15:40 during the dates shown below:

- Round One – 08 September – 17 October 2025
- Round Two – 24 November – 12 December 2025
- Round Three – 06 January – 16 January 2026
- Round Four – 23 February – 01 May 2026

Timetable for Get Exam Ready sessions

	WEEK A		WEEK B	
Monday	X Maths	Y English	X English	Y Maths
Tuesday	Option Block A		Staff Training	
Wednesday	X Science	Y History	X History / Geography	Y Science
Thursday	Option Block B		Option Block C	

Students are rewarded with 10 Class Charts points for each session they attend, which they can then use in our Class Charts rewards shop to buy everything from a pen (20 points) to a £10 voucher for various retailers (350 points). In addition, those students who attend 90% or more of the sessions will be eligible for additional rewards. Last year, these included ten-pin bowling, the cinema and Flamingo Land, all at no cost to families. Using Class Charts also means you are able to monitor your child's attendance to sessions, just as you can use it to check their homework and participation in lessons.

Please encourage your child/children to attend our Get Exam Ready sessions.

Trial Exams

Trial exams are an essential part in preparing students for exams. We offer students two opportunities over the course of the year:

- 20-24 October 2025 and 03-11 November 2025 (the weeks before and after October half term)
- 20-30 January 2026

Trial exams take place in exactly the same conditions as the summer exams so that students are able to get used to working in exam halls / rooms and being with external invigilators. Students should approach their trial exams with the same level of maturity they will in the summer. This means they should be revising independently away from school and trying their hardest on every question in every paper. This is the best way for teaching staff to diagnose gaps in knowledge and skills, and to then work to close these before the summer.

Behaviour and Attitudes (Mr Walton)

I would like to begin by praising the vast majority of Year 11 students who have returned to school with an incredibly positive mind-set and determination to do well. It has been clear that the young people have returned keen to do well, working hard and showing a very high standard of respect for themselves and for others.

We made the decision for this year to stop the 2-hour detention for students on a Friday night. Instead, we are following the policy of what worked successfully with our previous Year 11 cohort whereby whole school detentions will take place at lunch-times.

Again, the vast majority of our students have returned in the correct uniform and with the correct equipment. The uniform list was sent out last term to all parents and can be seen clearly on our school website. In particular, I'd like to draw your attention to jewellery and make-up.

For safety reasons, only studs should be worn and must be taken off in PE lessons; and fake nails and excessive amounts of make-up are not permitted.

Success and Celebration:

We have been delighted with how many positive class charts have been rewarded to students already.

During the course of the year, we will be looking to celebrate success for our students. One event I will draw attention to is the end of Year 11 Prom. We would like as many of our students to be able to come along to this event; more details will follow, but we must stress that this is dependent upon behaviour and attitudes during the course of the year.

Personal Development

Here is the overview of topics to be covered in our Y11 Personal Development curriculum;

- Core values of relationships
- Gender & sexuality
- Sexual violence, consent & the law
- Impact of victim blaming
- Pregnancy & choices
- Parenthood: positives & negatives
- Hate speech/extremism/radicalisation
- Safer Sex
- Pornography
- Sexually Transmitted Infections
- Fertility
- Risks/impacts of substance misuse
- Physical & Mental Health

Please contact us if there is anything of concern that may affect your child.

Thank you for your continued support. We are looking forward to making this a really successful and memorable year together.

Yours sincerely



Mr Krishnan