



September 2015

RE: The Year 11 Journey

Dear Parent / Carer

Welcome to Year 11! I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself; As Raising Standards' Leader my role is to ensure that every student achieves the best possible outcomes in order for them to have a better future. That means that throughout Year 11 myself, Heads of Department and subject teachers look forensically at every student in every subject, identifying areas in which students can improve in order to be successful in a particular examination, and working with them on how to do so.

I am delighted that Year 11 have made such a positive start to the year; they are focused and determined to succeed. There will be challenges ahead, and in order to maximise success, I believe that it is vital to work in partnership with parents, indeed, your support is invaluable.

Year 11 is planned so that we do the right things with the right students at the right times. Sharing key dates with you should assist you in supporting your child. Please find dates for your diary below:

Core Evening – Wednesday 14th October 2015

The Core Evening provides an opportunity for students and parents to hear from the Heads of English, Maths and Science on how parents can best support their child in those subjects. We explore how your child is assessed in each subject area and what they need to do to maximise their outcomes. Revision resources are available to purchase on the night. A letter regarding the Core Evening will follow shortly.

First Mock examinations – Monday 23rd – Friday 27th November 2015

The purpose of these exams is to identify each student's current grade in every subject and to diagnose areas of insecurity for teachers and students to work on. Information from the mock exams is used to develop interventions and in some cases to move students into different teaching groups. It is therefore imperative that students prepare for the mock examinations as if they were the 'real thing'.

Mock Results' Day – Tuesday 5th January 2016

On Mock Results' Day we simulate the experience of Summer Results' Day and students receive their results from their mock examinations. We capture the feelings of opening the envelope, be it joy or disappointment. For many this marks a turning point, either because it gives them more confidence or because it is a 'wake-up call'. I share the day with parents via an article and photograph gallery on the School website.

Reports issued – Tuesday 5th January 2016

The report will include students' mock results and teachers' professional predictions of likely outcomes.

Parents' Evening 1 – Thursday 14th January 2016

Subject teachers will share with you what your child is doing well and what they need to do in order to further improve. Many teachers will share their PLC's (Personalised Learning Checklist) with you showing areas that students should focus on as they prepare for the second round of mock exams.

Second Mock examinations – Monday 7th – Friday 11th March 2016

Again, students should revise for and prepare for these exams as if they were the 'real thing'. These exams give us the opportunity to assess whether previous areas of insecurity are now secure, and to identify areas for students to focus on as they prepare for their exams.

Final coursework deadline – Tuesday 24th March 2016

We ask all students and all subjects to adhere to this deadline so that students can focus on revising for their final exams thereafter.

Easter Revision – Friday 25th March – Monday 11th April 2016 (Easter Holidays)

We offer a thorough and detailed programme of revision sessions in the school holidays. You will receive the programme at the beginning of the Spring Term.

Reports issued – Tuesday 12th – Friday 15th April 2016

The report will include students' mock results and teachers' final professional predictions of likely outcomes.

Parents' Evening 2 – Wednesday 20th April 2016

Subject teachers will share with you progress made by your child as demonstrated in the mock exams and what they need to do in order to further improve. Many teachers will share their updated PLC's (Personalised Learning Checklist) so that both you and they have a clear understanding of areas key revision areas as they prepare for the GCSE examinations.

GCSE exams begin – 13th May 2016

In addition to the above, we implement a variety of interventions throughout the year. These include: motivational programme activities, coursework and controlled assessment catch-up, revisiting of key topics, small group teaching during Core PE and after school sessions. Interventions are developed based on our analysis of individual student need on an ongoing basis and after assessments and mock examinations.

As you are aware, we have just celebrated the best results ever, and we look forward to the year ahead with our Year 11s and yourselves.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on jlynam@blpmail.org.uk.

Yours sincerely



Mrs J Lynam
Assistant Headteacher – Raising Standards Leader