

Welcome to Year 11 Newsletter

Dear Year 10 Parent/Carer,

We are almost at the end of what has been a very difficult year for all of us. The pandemic has had a significant impact on our school community and has forced us to live and work in ways that we would never have imagined. The end of year 10 has not been easy for many families, however we very much hope that the worst is now behind us and we can begin to think about starting year 11 with renewed optimism and begin to get back to normal.

Please can we convey our thanks to you for your continued support as we have all adapted to the difficult challenges over the past few months. Please also pass on our thanks to your son/daughter as they have contributed enormously by being nice and behaving well around the school site.

Usually we send out this communication to you in September. However, this year we feel that receiving the information before the summer may help you and your son/daughter to prepare and be ready for a positive start to a very important year 11. We wanted to let you know of some senior members of staff who will have important roles working alongside **Mr Alker, (Head of Year)**. **Mr Holdsworth (Assistant Head)** will be responsible for **KS4 progress** and **Dr Holt (Assistant Head)** will be responsible for **Teaching and Learning**. Our aim is to set the scene for the year, provide you with some key information and dates as well as explain how we will work with you to maximise the progress of your child in the months to come, including over the summer.

Student Progress in Year 11

The progress of our students is affected by many factors both at school and at home and we are committed to working with you to maximise your son/daughter's chances of success next summer. At classroom level, teachers will adapt to the needs of their classes constantly, looking carefully at assessment results and responding to the needs of individuals. The majority of this will be done within the normal school day but sometimes students will be invited to extra small groups after school or during lunchtime as the need arises. This may also include adapting the curriculum and schemes of work where necessary coupled with a detailed intervention process.

Intervention

In order for students to maximise their chances of doing well, some students may receive extra support and may be via parental request, teacher, form tutor or Head of Subject recommendation. These students are given small group or one to one support, they have their timetables amended or they receive interventions such as mentoring or support in the Independent Learning Centre.

Monitoring student progress in Year 11

Student progress will be monitored closely by staff throughout the first and second terms.

Monday 13th September: Form tutor review of year 10 CODE/progress – Targets to improve!

Monday 15th November: Review of student progress will be sent home

Wednesday 17th November: Discussion of progress at Parents Evening

Tuesday 3rd – 17th January: Formal mock exams in Constance Green Hall

Monday 6th – 10th December: Year 11 Mock MFL speaking exams

Monday 28th February: Further Mock GCSE English and Maths exams

Monday 7th March: Progress Review and written report sent home

Work over the summer

In order to consolidate this year's work and prepare for September, subjects have made suggestions of work that students can complete over the summer holiday. Whilst this is not intended to create anxiety or interrupt the well-deserved break, it may be useful for some students to support their learning. Work may be found in their class Team or as indicated by class teachers.

Revision

Research informs us that regular testing and revision throughout the year has huge benefits for learning. As parents, we can also support learning by offering to test them and being aware of when tests and results are coming up. During the year we will work with the students to help them develop effective revision techniques subjects will be offering revision or booster sessions. The timing and location of these sessions will be provided to the students well in advance.

Support from parents

Success and progress in year 11 will be the result of a good partnership between home and school. We intend to start using planners again in September and hope that this will enable a strong line of communication between parents and teachers which will help us interact regularly. Please continue to look at your child's planner with them, encourage them to have a regular routine for checking their planner and sorting and organising themselves even though we know they are getting older and probably feel that they have moved on from this. We have also learned from lockdown about the benefits of exercise and a balanced diet/ hydration and how this can positively affect attention and wellbeing. In addition, assemblies recently on the importance of sleep and have highlighted to them how essential it is for students of this age to have at least nine hours a night. Probably the best thing for their progress next year is to help ensure that good routines are followed and their use of phones/games does not affect their sleep and homework. Please contact us if there is anything we can do to assist.

Wellbeing

For helpful advice on teenage wellbeing, please see following link to our website:

[St. Aidan's Healthzone](#)

You may also find the following links useful:

[The Go To](#) Support available for young people in North Yorkshire

[Every mind matters](#) Expert advice and practical tips

[stem4](#) Supporting positive mental health in teenagers

[NHS Guide to improving your sleep](#)

[MIND how to cope with sleep problems](#)

Duke of Edinburgh (Bronze)

We have been disappointed that our extensive programme of extra-curricular activities has been curtailed due to the pandemic. It has meant that we were not able to safely run Duke of Edinburgh expeditions in year 10. However, we have re-arranged the D of E expeditions as follows:

7th-8th May 2022: Practice Training Weekend, based at school and local both days (non-residential)

25th-26th June 2022: Assessed Weekend 1 - (Pateley Bridge area 1 night camping)

1st-2nd July 2022: Assessed Weekend 2 - (Pateley Bridge area 1 night camping)

Please address any questions relating to D of E bronze to Mr Kirkpatrick.

We hope that you have an enjoyable and relaxing summer holiday and your plans for summer work out well. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require our support or assistance and we look forward seeing everyone again for a bright start in September.

Mr Alker – Head of Year 11

Mr Holdsworth – Assistant Head KS4

Year 11 Careers

After the summer holidays you will commence your final year of lower school and all that this entails. One important aspect of Year 11 is making applications for your Post-16 choices, whether you are considering moving on to Sixth Form, starting a course at college or beginning your employment journey through an apprenticeship.



Post-16 Plans

The Careers Department team look forward to working closely with you during Year 11 to support you in planning the best transition for you. We will meet with you first within form group registration in the Autumn term to provide a more detailed overview of your available options which will be followed up by individual guidance meetings during the Spring term to give you the opportunity to explore your own preferences in greater detail. You may have specific questions regarding courses, entry qualifications, transport, progression after courses, work experience or the applications process and we will be happy to help you discover the answers.

This summer is the ideal opportunity to get ahead with researching your options:

Associated Sixth Form

Studying A Levels and Level 3 Applied Courses in the Associated Sixth Form enables you to continue your GCSE subjects in greater depth and/or discover new subjects that are only offered after Year 11. You will be taken through the application process in school which will cover subject information. However, in advance you can look at the prospectus on the St. Aidan's website for course content and entry requirements and watch the subject videos for a brief course overview.

<https://www.staidans.co.uk/sixth-form/sixth/>

Further Education Colleges

Some colleges offer a range of A Level subjects such as York College and Leeds City College, however all offer vocational and practical courses. These are related to a broad employment area such as business, engineering, IT and health and social care and provide the opportunity to gain relevant qualifications and train for a specific career. If you are considering making an application to college it is important to research courses and entry requirements on individual college websites and sign up to attend open/taster days which will take place in the Autumn.

Our local colleges are:

College

Harrogate College
York College
Askham Bryan College
Leeds City College
Leeds College of Building
Leeds Arts University
White Rose Beauty College

Website

<https://harrogate-college.ac.uk/>
<https://www.yorkcollege.ac.uk/>
<https://www.askham-bryan.ac.uk/>
<https://www.leeds-city-college.ac.uk/>
<https://www.lcb.ac.uk/>
<https://www.leeds-art.ac.uk/>
<https://www.whiterosebeautycolleges.co.uk/>

Next Open Event

tbc
Open Event: 14 Oct, 17.30-20.00
Open Event: 13 Nov, 10.30-13.30
Open Event: 20 Oct, tbc
Open Event: 21 Oct, 17.00-19.00
Open Event: 20 Nov, all day
Apply direct to organise

Apprenticeships

As an apprentice you will work for an employer and earn as you study for nationally recognised qualifications which are relevant to your job, such as NVQs. Training can take between 1 and 2 years before you are fully qualified.

Visit www.apprenticeships.org.uk and www.apprenticeshipguide.co.uk for more details of apprenticeships.

Work Experience

We are hopeful that in-person work experience will once again be offered to Year 11 students in 2022. You will be encouraged to arrange a 1-week placement with a local business or organisation to fit around any other end of Year 11 activities that may be taking place. Mrs Farrar will visit form groups in the Autumn to provide further details of the programme, but in the meantime, we would encourage you to take advantage of some of the virtual opportunities advertised on the school website:

www.staidans.co.uk/careers-st-aidans/work-experience

Enjoy your well-deserved summer break and we look forward to meeting you all in the Autumn!

Mrs Dukes, Mrs Richmond and Mrs Farrar