

Year 11 Welcome Letter

September 2022

Dear Year 11 Parent/Carer,

We hope you have had an enjoyable and restful summer and are prepared with your son/daughter for an important year ahead.

The students have started the year positively and we thank them for the lovely atmosphere since returning to school. We would like to take this opportunity to provide you with some key information and dates to support you as we begin Year 11, as well as explain how we will work with you to maximise the progress of your child in the months to come.

Students will where possible remain with the same form teacher and Mr Bean will continue to be the Head of Year 11 and the primary pastoral contact. Two members of the Senior Leadership Team will be involved with the year group - Mr Holdsworth (Assistant Head) will be responsible for KS4 pastoral and progress and Dr Holt (Assistant Head) will be responsible for Teaching and Learning. We have also appointed Mrs Kitching who is the KS4 Student Support officer to help our students with both pastoral and academic concerns.

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. For students to maximise their chances of doing well, some students may receive extra support and this 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.

Form time PSHE

This year we are delivering a bespoke programme of personal, social, health and economic education during form time in the morning. Students will continue to have two religious assemblies per week and will follow the programme with their form teacher.

Monitoring student progress in Year 11

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

Monday 14th November: Review of student progress will be sent home

Wednesday 16th November: Discussion of progress at Parents Evening

Wednesday 4th – 13th January: Formal mock exams in Constance Green Hall

Monday 5th December (w/c): Year 11 Mock MFL speaking exams

Monday 27th February (w/c): Further Mock GCSE English and Maths exams

Tuesday 14th March: Progress Review and written report sent home

Year 11 Welcome Letter

September 2022

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. Last year we re-introduced the use of school planners and hope that this will continue to 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 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 Health Zone](#)

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

We hope that you have an enjoyable and relaxing Autumn term. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require our support or assistance.

Mr Holdsworth – Assistant Head KS4

Mr Bean Head of Year 11