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A University of Kent Academies Trust School

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Dear Parents, Carers, and Students

## Re: Year 11 – Start of Year Information

I hope you and your families had a good summer break and your child is refreshed and ready to go as they start their most important school year to date.

I am writing to share a number of key dates and information with you. I feel it is really important that we work closely together this year in order to ensure your child is well supported and prepared for the year ahead with their upcoming GCSE examinations, which will start during Term 5 in May 2022.

## Year 11 Launch Information Evening

As I shared previously, we will be holding a Year 11 Launch Information Evening for both parents, carers and students on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021**. This evening will provide key information for the year ahead as students complete the final year of their GCSE courses.

The times for the sessions will be based on the band your child is in as follows:

- 4pm – Y and V Band
- 5pm – Z Band
- 6pm – G and H Band

I will write to you with additional information for this evening at the start of next week.

## Year 11 Parent/Carer Consultation Evenings

This year there will be two parent/carers consultation evenings, which will be vitally important to discuss your child's progress with their teachers in each of their subject courses. These evenings will take place on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January** and **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022** and will run from 4.00pm to 7.00pm using the SchoolCloud system. Students should also attend these virtual evenings with you.

## Personal Tutors

Your child will be allocated a Year 11 Personal Tutor when they return to the Academy on Monday morning. Year 11 Personal Tutors are part of a specialist team which have additional training to support your child in Year 11 and will be working closely with myself throughout the year. Your child will have a 30-minute session on their timetable with

their Personal Tutor daily and this member of staff will therefore be their and your first point of contact for any questions or support.

### **After School/Holiday Revision Sessions**

During the course of this year, there will be a wide range of additional subject sessions available to support your child in their subjects outside of their timetabled lesson time. Please actively encourage your child to speak to their subject teachers in the coming weeks for after school session details and support them in utilising these opportunities. There will also be a number of holiday additional subject sessions taking place during the October half term, February half term and April Easter holiday. I will write to you, before each break, with full details of the subject sessions available. There will be a new reward system in place to recognise and reward students for attending and engaging in these additional learning and study opportunities. I will share details of this with students next week.

### **Study Skill Sessions and Mentoring**

During the course of this year all Year 11 students will take part in a number of study skills sessions designed to boost student motivation, focus on aspirations and provide additional support and guidance to aid successful studying and ownership of learning. Mentoring in English, Maths and Science will take place with specific students in order to provide students with additional bespoke support, which has been identified and requested by their subject teachers. Students will be notified directly of these sessions by the Mentoring Team.

### **Behaviour and Attendance**

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the importance for exceptionally high standards of both behaviour and attendance in Year 11. The majority of students meet the standards of behaviour expected as part of the Academy's Code of Conduct. However, should a student fail to meet these expectations, they will be removed from that lesson to ensure the learning of other students is not affected. Additionally, excellent levels of attendance and punctuality to school and lessons are key factors in ensuring your child is able to maximise their learning and progress. I would be grateful if you would reinforce this and support your child in order to ensure they are attending the Academy on time to really make the most of all of their learning time during Year 11.

### **GCSE Exam and Mock Exam Dates**

Mock exams are planned in order to prepare students for the upcoming public GCSE exams and ensure that you, your child and their teachers are aware of their strengths and weaknesses to support identifying future improvements required. The exams office will publish individual timetables for all Mock and GCSE public examinations. Please find Mock and GCSE public examination dates below:

- Mock exam window 1 – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November
- Mock exam window 2 – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March
- GCSE public exam window – Dates and details will be shared once they have been finalised



## Student Independent Learning and Ownership

A key focus in assemblies and Personal Tutor sessions over the coming terms will be on building student independence and ownership of their learning as it is proven this is a key factor which leads to successful outcomes. As part of this, I would be grateful if you would share all information in this letter with your child, so they are well informed to take the lead with their own learning over the year ahead.

I hope you find the above information useful for the coming year. Please do not hesitate to contact any member of the staff team or myself if you have any questions or would like to discuss anything further.

I look forward to working with you and your child over the course of the year ahead.

Yours faithfully



Dan Greenwood

**Assistant Principal – Head of Year 10 and 11**



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