

Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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Dear Year 11 Parents and Carers

Welcome back to a new school year. I am sure both parents and students alike understand the significance of this year; in eight months your children will be sitting their GCSE examinations.

Before looking ahead, I want to congratulate students for how the vast majority approached their work experience placements at the end of Year 10. I have received many good reports from employers. Our students were a credit to their families and the school, well done! I also want to recognise the work of the Year 10 prefects; they have shown great leadership in their positions of responsibility.

Our aim over this year is to work with you, the students' parents and carers, to ensure that our young people achieve, not only academically, but also develop the skills and attributes which are essential to success in later life.

Undoubtedly, Year 11 is an important stage in your child's education, the better the outcome next summer, the greater the choice they will have post-16. This is the reward I know they would all wish for.

During the summer term of Year 10 students took internal exams, the results of these were quite varied. Where students revised and prepared, outcomes were very positive. However, the opposite is also true. Teachers will be working very closely with every Year 11 student to ensure they are aware of their strengths and areas for improvement in each subject area. Support for developing study skills and revision techniques will also be provided to both students and parents and carers.

Expectations

Attendance

Good attendance and punctuality are vital throughout Year 11. It stands to reason that if students are not in school, they cannot be learning. Students who are not in school clearly miss out on vital learning opportunities and this affects examination results in an adverse way. Even having only a few days off in Year 11 can, on average, lead to a drop of one GCSE grade per subject. Therefore, you should not make appointments during the school day or take holidays during this academic year. Furthermore, resilience should be developed, and students with minor illness should be in school.

Learning Behaviours

To ensure the best possible learning environment and therefore outcomes for our students, we naturally expect outstanding behaviour in lessons; to their credit most students behave very well. However, any behaviour that disrupts the learning of another, be that through disruption in the classroom, or attending lessons late will not be tolerated. Students involved in such behaviour can expect to be removed from their normal classroom. The school has set aside increased provision for after school and Saturday morning detentions. We also have reciprocal arrangements where we can place students in other Havant Federation schools.

Uniform

Please ensure your child is dressed correctly and adheres to the policy related to make-up and jewellery. Items that should not be found in school will be confiscated. It is important that learning is not lost trying to resolve uniform, make-up and jewellery issues. As the most senior students in main school, we look to Year 11 to set a positive example to lower school students.

In addition to this letter, students in Year 11 will receive an expectations assembly, so that all are clear what is expected from them. Your support in helping reinforce this is central to this process.

The Future

In the early part of this year, your child will start considering the direction they wish to follow after Year 11. We will be delivering a detailed programme to help them understand the strengths and benefits of various options available to them. I was delighted to see many of this year's cohort returning to our Sixth Form.

Our Sixth Form Open Evening is on Thursday 12 October, so please add this date to your diaries.

Assessment, Examination and Reporting

Mock Examinations

English and Maths	22 - 23 November 2023
Main Mock Exams	27 November – 8 December 2023
English	11 January 2024
English, Maths, Science, RE	11 – 14 March 2024

Examination timetables and revision material will be published for these in advance of the exams.

Final Exams (Provisional)

Start of Main Exam Season	9 May 2024
Exam Contingency Day *	26 June 2024

** A contingency day is set aside should sustained local or national disruption arise during the exam season. All exam candidates must be available to sit exams from the start of the exam season in May until the Contingency Day.*

Reports

Written Reports with Current Grades	9 - 10 November 2023
Mock Grades	9 - 10 January 2024
Final Predicted Grades and Tutor Reports	27 - 28 March 2024

Parents' Evening

Thursday 11 January 2024 (this will be held in the Hall)

Additional Support

From the beginning of October there will be an additional lesson in Period 6, every Tuesday- Friday from 3.45-5.00pm. Whilst this will be open to the whole year group, some students who are not making sufficient progress will be directed to attend this additional support.

After Christmas, there is also the potential for holiday intervention sessions to support your child with examinations, alongside specific after school revision sessions. A revision session timetable will be issued nearer the time.

All these interventions are purposefully aimed at helping students to prepare, as early as possible, for the GCSE examinations. Again, it is therefore of great importance to us that we have your support with this.

Finally

As the year moves towards the GCSEs, many students feel stressed and anxious. This is normal as exams are stressful but much of this anxiety can be eased by encouraging good eating and sleeping habits, along with lots of moral and practical support from home. If there are any serious concerns, please encourage your child to talk to someone in school (their Form Tutor is a good first port of call) or contact us yourselves. Do not wait – the earlier we become aware of an issue, the more likely we are to be able to work together to resolve it.

If you do have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Mitchell, Head of Year 11 – 19hoy@oaklandscatholicschool.org.

I appreciate there is a lot of information to take in here but please can I ask that you go through this with your child and we look forward to working with you all during this vital year. I will write to you again before half term.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Quinn
Headteacher