



17 December 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

Autumn Term Christmas Letter – Year 11

This has certainly been a rollercoaster term for Year 11. I have been teaching for a very long time and I have not experienced anything like this. The response from Year 11 has been amazing and their conduct around school and in lessons has been so positive. It has been very difficult for them with periods of isolation but they have continued to work hard from home when necessary. Attendance at live lessons has been very high, with both teachers and students commenting on how much better the live lesson experience was for learning.

The future for exams during the summer of 2021 remains unclear. The government maintains that exams will go ahead with some changes, they have already been delayed by three weeks and it has been proposed that some information about the content will be released before the exams. Year 11 must of course, continue to work hard and prepare for the exams in addition to completing any controlled assessments and coursework to the best of their ability and on time. Students must also continue to work hard to prepare for class assessments, as these will help students and teachers to gauge where they have strengths and areas for improvement in their learning.

The trial exams take place in the New Year (between 11th January and 22nd January), it is essential that Year 11 prepare thoroughly for these trial exams as they must be able to assess how well their revision worked for them as well as test their exam technique, knowledge and understanding. Active revision works much better than passive revision and flash cards, visual diagrams, and condensing information have all been proved to work well. The best form of revision is to try exam questions and then focus on areas where there were gaps in knowledge or understanding.

To help students revise they may need additional resources such as highlighters, flash cards, coloured pens and notebooks. The holiday would also be a good time to replenish equipment to ensure that students are able to get straight back to work on their return to school in January.

Study support lessons have restarted again at school. Some of these are virtual using Microsoft Teams and others are held after school. There is a link on the school website to the timetable for these sessions. Revision lists for each subject (RAP sheets) will be sent out with progress reports at the end of term to highlight areas of learning where individual students need to focus so that they can improve their exam preparation.

Coming up in the Spring Term:

18/12/20	Grade reports and RAP sheets issued – Autumn Term ends
04/01/21	INSET day for staff
05/01/21	First day of the Spring Term for students
11/01/21	Trial exam begin for two weeks



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10/02/21	Trial exam results interviews
12/02/21	Half term ends
22/02/21	Spring Term second half begins
24/02/21	Year 11 subject evening (details to be confirmed)
31/03/21	Year 11 revision evening (details to be confirmed)
01/04/21	Spring Term ends

It is important that Year 11 have some time to relax but it is also important that students do use the Christmas break to prepare for their trial exams. I hope that you all manage to have a happy holiday and that you are able to see friends and family.

Yours faithfully

Alistair Dunn (Head of Year 11)