

29 March 2021

Dear Parent

Spring Term 2020 – 2021 Year 11 Newsletter

I am extremely proud of the resilience shown by Year 11 students during this very difficult year. This resilience has been demonstrated by the mature approach that students have taken to their trial exams. Students have returned to school and shown how committed they are to their education by behaving impeccably during the exams; this has resulted in some excellent feedback from teachers who have started to mark the exam papers. I know that there are some students who are nervous and anxious about their results, however I am sure that learning done in school during the autumn term and students' engagement in live lessons during the start of the Spring Term will come to fruition with the results that they achieve.

What Happens Next for Year 11?

Students will start to receive their results for the trial exams and teachers will be analysing where there are gaps in students' knowledge. Teachers will then work with students to improve knowledge in these areas, and then use a variety of assessment methods to generate evidence of improvements. For students who feel that they have not shown the best that they can achieve, there is still time to work on improving the portfolio of evidence that teachers are compiling for each student in every subject. However, all evidence for Year 11 needs to be collected by May 28th so I cannot stress how important the next six weeks are for your youngster.

On Monday 19 April exams boards will be releasing sets of questions that will be publicly available for students to use to support them in their learning. Results day for GCSE students will be Thursday 12 August. We will send out details of how students will receive their results nearer the time.

The assessment of a student's achievement by schools is very different this year to last year. Schools have not been asked to make a prediction about what a student **would have** achieved but they have been asked to compile a portfolio of evidence to show the level that a student **has** achieved. Therefore, it is imperative that students complete work to the best of their ability and listen to support and guidance given by their class teachers in order to provide the evidence required. Attending lessons, behaving well, and producing high quality work are essential during the last few weeks of school. It is also important for students to complete any work set at home as this could be used in their portfolio of evidence.

I have been asked by parents about when the school year will finish for Year 11. At the moment I cannot answer this question as we are waiting for an announcement from the Government concerning this.

Attendance and Punctuality

It has been a constant pleasure for me to be able to open the gates for Year 11 students at the start of the school day. There are always students waiting to come in to school and eager to learn. The majority of students arrive on time at 8.20am ready to start lessons at 8.30am. There are however a few students each day who arrive late making it difficult to keep the year group bubbles separate. Please could you encourage students to set off in plenty of time to arrive at school on time.

Uniform and Equipment

Most students in the year group are maintaining a very smart appearance and arrive at school in the correct uniform every day. However, there are a small number who are currently not wearing correct uniform. I appreciate that it has not been as easy as usual to get replacement uniform, due to non-essential retail being closed – however this is set to reopen as of Monday 12 April. All students are expected to be in correct uniform when they return to school on Tuesday 20 April.

Additionally, now the weather has become warmer, students have been reminded that non-uniform items (such as jumpers and hoodies) and outdoor coats should not be worn in classrooms. Students will be expected to take these off upon arrival if worn to school and any students not doing so should expect to have these items confiscated. Students must have a school blazer and wear this to school. I would appreciate it if you could reinforce this message with your child at home.

As with uniform – most students are arriving well equipped for learning each day. The Easter holiday provides an ideal opportunity to make sure your child has all the equipment they need to be able to make the most of every lesson. As a reminder, the basic equipment needed by all students includes: a pencil case, pens (black/blue and red), a fine whiteboard pen, a highlighter pen, a pencil, a 30cm ruler, a scientific calculator, a maths set, colouring pencils, felt tip pens, a glue stick, an eraser and a pencil sharpener.

Key Dates for Year 11

Date	Event
Thursday 1 April	End of the Spring Term for students
Friday 2 April	Good Friday Bank Holiday
Monday 19 April	INSET Day – School closed to students
Monday 19 April	Exam boards release question banks to support students learning
Tuesday 20 April	Start of the Summer Term for students
Friday 28 May	End of Half Term – Start of Half Term holiday
Monday 7 June	Start of final Half Term
Friday 23 July	End of school year
Thursday 12 August	GCSE Results Day (Details to follow at a later date)

Careers Support and Guidance

For students who would like some support with moving forward after Year 11 we have careers advice and guidance available via Teams. If you feel this would be beneficial please contact Mr Goodman (mgoodman@leesbrook.co.uk). If you require help with other issues then please contact the Year 11 Form Tutors or me (adunn@leesbrook.co.uk)

I would like to finish by reiterating how proud I am of the students in Year 11. As their Head of Year it has been quite emotional to see them have so much disruption during their GCSE years and to have to cope with so many unknowns and changes. They have done so well and I look forward to celebrating their success in the summer.

Yours faithfully



Alistair Dunn
Head of Year 11