

January 16<sup>th</sup> 2020

Dear Year 11 Parents and Carers,

## THE FINAL COUNTDOWN!

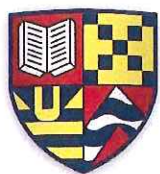
As I am sure you are aware, the exam season is not too far away from us. The **pace and quality of work** that we are expecting from our Year 11 students is increasing by the day. Teachers in every subject are focusing on the areas that will make the biggest gains for pupils.

The **next three months** is absolutely critical for our students to **improve their current grades**. It is not too late to make a vast improvement but that extra hard work has to start **now** if the changes that many students are aiming for are to become a reality.

Today we have launched our **Final Countdown Programme** with Year 11. This has been designed to give every student the best possible chance to improve their grades, opening doors to those important opportunities next year and beyond.

Our **Final Countdown Programme** involves the following:

- **No more Year 11 morning line up.** Students are expected to be in on time and will go straight to form time. Students will study additional **Mathematics and English** during Form Time to get an all-important boost for those essential subjects.
- Lessons will be now focussing on **exam preparation**. There will be an increase in **fast-paced, independent work**. We want our students ready to face those long sessions in the exam hall when they cannot ask for help and can only rely on themselves: our approach will require some **tough love** and we hope you will support us by reminding your child that we are doing this to make sure they are **examination ready**. Now is the time for students to realise what they don't know so they can get the help they need to improve.
- On **Monday, Tuesday and Thursday** Year 11 will have **Period 6 sessions**. **All students** are welcome to attend period 6 sessions. Some students are **specially targeted** for specific help: if your child is targeted, you will receive a message telling you they are **expected** to attend. If your child is targeted and they fail to attend, they are very unlikely to make the progress they need to reach their target grades.
- On Friday afternoons we will be **celebrating the successes** of the Year Group. Weekly recognition and rewards will be given to students who are working really hard. We will also be introducing the, 'leavers hoodies' and the 'passport to the Prom' initiatives.
- **Stress?** We need our students to be under the **right amount of pressure** so they are motivated to work hard but not so worried that they can't focus. This exam training programme needs to be **intensive and hard work**. Your child should feel frustrated and concerned when they get stuck and they will experience the **satisfaction of success** when they make improvements. Your child may be too laid back and not worried enough about their examinations. Your child may be so anxious that they cannot focus or they switch off. We will always work hard to keep a close eye on individuals so that they experience the right amount of pressure to help them achieve their best. If you are concerned about your child being **too switched off** or **too anxious**, please get in touch with either their Form Tutor or Mr Bennett, Head of Year 11.



### Additional Sessions

#### Revision sessions:

Different subjects will be offering special sessions for specific revision or catch up **before school**, at **dinner time** and **after school**.

**Period 6 sessions** are now up and running in English (Monday), Mathematics (Tuesday) and Science (Thursday). All pupils are encouraged to attend, with some students identified who are expected / required to be there. Feedback so far has been extremely positive.

#### February Half Term Coursework Improvement:

During **February half term** we will be putting on sessions for subjects that require **coursework**. This will be important time to upgrade coursework and add vital marks to improve final grade. In the past, taking advantage of these days has led to students gaining up to a full grade. They are that important. We will be writing to you with details of this important opportunity in the coming weeks.

#### Easter School:

We will be running revision sessions during the Easter holiday. We will only be using part of the **first week** of the holidays so that staff and families can plan around that. A range of subjects will be offering extra exam preparation. Details of the **Easter school Timetable** will be finalised and sent to you by Half Term.

It is vital that that all of us, staff, pupils, parents and carers, do everything we can to make the most of the time between now and the examinations. It may be a short time, but it is enough to change the lives of our young people. We need your support in achieving this goal. Your child's **attendance** is crucial and we ask for your support in ensuring they are at school **on time** every day.

If you would like more detailed feedback and guidance on how your child is progressing or would like further support for your child, please do not hesitate to contact school main reception on 0121 453 1778 or make direct contact with your child's Form Tutor or Mr Bennett.

Yours sincerely,

*Emma Leaman*

Ms E Leaman  
Headteacher

Mr M Brookes  
Assistant Headteacher

Mr A Bennett  
Head of Year 11

Mr S Morris  
Deputy Headteacher