

January 2023

Dear Parent / Carer

Y11 'Passport to the Prom'

We have welcomed the new year with renewed energy and an absolute focus on learning. This term is critical for our year 11 students; our priorities continue to be:

- effort and focus in **lessons**,
- attending **enrichment**,
- completing **homework**
- sticking to a clear **revision** plan



Student attendance continues to be a concern, as every lesson missed has a direct impact on gaps in student knowledge. We appreciate all the efforts from parents and carers who support excellent attendance and we know this will facilitate the best outcomes at GCSE for individual students.

Mock Exams

Mock exams will take place from **6 - 17 March**. It is crucial that students attend every exam and maximise their opportunities to experience exam conditions. Students will be expected to utilise all the support we offer including attending breakfast revision sessions, as we know this support helps their achievement, I would ask all parents and carers to encourage attendance at these sessions.

Enrichment

Last term, disappointingly, saw a significant drop in attendance at the after-academy enrichment sessions. All students benefit from GCSE enrichment. It is a key, tried and tested intervention that we know has a direct impact on individual student GCSE results.

Year on year, we can see that students who consistently attend enrichment make better progress and achieve more than students who have lower attendance levels. I would appeal to all parents and carers to encourage consistent attendance at enrichment and if possible consider using attendance at enrichment as part of a reward system for your child.

From this week we will be texting parents and carers of students who miss that day's enrichment session. By making you aware of your child's absence we hope that you will support us in ensuring that they attend as many sessions as possible.

Revision

All students should have started their revision plan, using the timetable they should have completed in tutor time at the end of last term. I would advise parents and carers to view their child's revision plan and use this to encourage consistent revision.

If your child does not have a revision plan please contact their form tutor as soon as possible. If you have any concerns regarding your child's revision at home please do not hesitate to contact their tutor or Mr Page, Learning Manager.

Students completed a learning session on effective revision with their tutors at the end of last term to explore effective revision techniques. As part of this students were issued with a 'handy guide on how to revise' this

booklet has lots of support and practical advice and ideas on revision, again it is worth parents having a look at this and talking it through with your child.

Passport to the Prom

The Prom is part of the academy's rewards program, celebrating the end of the student's secondary education and rewarding students for all their hard work leading up to the GCSEs. This year the prom will be held on Thursday 29 June.

We launched the 'Passport to the Prom' with Year 11 students last week and students have now received their passports. The passport is designed to help students focus their efforts in the final run up to the GCSE exams.

There is no automatic right to attend prom and students must complete their passport to be eligible to attend. Students are required to achieve all of the following milestones:

- attend a minimum of 45 enrichments (there are rewards for attending more than 55 enrichment sessions / relevant holiday revision sessions)
- attendance between 16 January and 26 May needs to be above 95%*
- Praising Stars reports for cycles 3, 4 and 5 must demonstrate that students are aiming for effort grades of E1 and E2 in all subjects
- Students should have a minimal level of late arrivals at the academy
- the student's behaviour record must reflect a positive effort to engage with learning and make positive choices
- students must return all required textbooks and settle any outstanding lunch monies owing by the end of the exam period

Student Wellbeing

We continue to be vigilant and supportive in relation to the health and well-being of students and want to work with them to develop their resilience. By being mindful of the following, students can help to minimise the stress of preparing for and sitting exams:

- Connect the jigsaw pieces (lessons, enrichment, homework, revision)
- Balance – study and social time
- Health – sleep, eat, exercise
- Support – ask for help.

And finally....

There are ONLY 15 weeks until the first GCSE exam. By working together we can ensure all students maximise their potential and make the best progress possible. Please help us to secure the best GCSE results for your child by supporting them at home, encouraging homework completion, attendance at enrichment and critically, sticking to their revision plan.

Your support, as always, is greatly appreciated and we look forward to celebrating with all our students at the Prom and on results day on Thursday 24 August.

Yours faithfully



Seana Rice
Principal

* For students with complex medical needs that may lead to difficulties in attendance, please be assured that we will take this into consideration when calculating attendance percentages and their absence will be calculated on possible attendance.