



11th January 2024

Dear Parents of Year 11,

I am writing this letter with some key information and updates in the run up to the GCSE exams in May. Year 11 students have been working hard so far this year and they should be congratulated on their efforts in the run up to their GCSEs. The next few months will be the most important of your child's education, and depending on how they perform in their exams will directly impact what they can and cannot do in their future. The following information is to inform parents of what we are doing and what you can do to support your child.

The most important thing your child can be doing at this time is to ensure they are making the most of their lessons; engaging in all learning activities, ensuring they know when any coursework deadlines are, behaving well in lessons and completing all set homework. That being said, there are a few other messages I would like to share with you.

Attendance & Punctuality

There is a direct correlation between attendance and GCSE attainment, and therefore it is vital your child makes every effort to attend school. Attendance of 90% means that your child is missing half a day of school per week. Attendance above 95% is proved to have a positive impact on results and students should be aiming for 100% attendance. Similarly poor punctuality shows a poor attitude towards learning and there are a small number of students who are regularly late for lessons. If your child is 5 minutes late per lesson every day this equates to over 2 hours of missed learning over a week. This will have a direct impact on progress and attainment. The starter activities planned by teachers are vital for establishing strong learning and progress in each lesson so it is vital that all students arrive at lessons in good time. Well done to those students who have excellent attendance and punctuality, this will pay off in their GCSEs.

Mock Exams

Year 11 mock exams begin on Friday 12th January. These exams are carried out in much the same way as the live exams in May under strict exam conditions. This is the last opportunity for your child to experience this environment prior to their real exams. Once students have received their mock exam results please have a discussion with your child about their performance and what actions they can take between now and May. Teachers will analyse the mocks carefully to ensure targeted and specific teaching and revision is in place in school in the run up to live exams.

Parent's Evening

Year 11 parent's evening will follow mock exams and is taking place on the 8th February. This is an opportunity for you to speak to each of your child's subject teachers regarding their performance in their GCSEs. It is a vital opportunity to see how you can support your child in the run up to their exams as well as get feedback on their mock results. Attendance to parent's evening will help you to know what support you can provide at home.

Revision

Students should now be doing regular revision at home for all of their subjects over and above homework and attendance at Period 6. Students can find an example revision timetable in their revision Google classroom to help them organise their time and prioritise different subjects. Students have also been provided with numerous different revision strategies such as knowledge organisers, revision clocks and flash cards. Students need a quiet place to study away from distractions such as TV and mobile phones.

Interventions

Students are all aware of period 6 sessions which run every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. In order to find the timetable for these sessions please visit <https://www.hydehighschool.uk/students/period6/>.

All students need to attend period 6 sessions as this gives them support with appropriate revision and priority topics from subject specialists. A huge thank you and well done to those students who have regularly attended sessions this year.

In addition to period 6, students can also apply for a study space pass that gives them access to a quiet study space from 8am and at the end of the school day. A large number of students now have these passes and should be using this facility if they need a quiet space or a computer to use. If your child has not applied for a pass please encourage them to apply for one and to use the facilities within school that are available to them.

In order to provide your child with all the time needed to complete revision, students have 3 dedicated form times per week to complete additional revision. Students are expected to bring their own revision materials to form time and make the most of this time.

Support

We understand that year 11 can be a stressful time for children and as a school we are here to support your child with all aspects of this important year. Sometimes children can mask that they are struggling with the stress that comes with GCSEs when in school, and it may not be apparent to us, as staff, that additional support might be needed. If you know your child is in need of additional support please do not hesitate to contact Mr Evans, the head of year 11, who can look into how we can support your child.

Prom

The prom is the final celebration of the success and achievement of finishing school and GCSEs and we would love to celebrate with as many students as possible. For those who engage in revision and period 6 sessions they will be entered into the regular raffles to win discounted tickets to the prom. As ever, attendance at prom is dependent on good student conduct. More details about this exciting event will be released in due course.

Final message from Mr Evans, Head of Year 11

I would like to congratulate all those students who have been working so hard and their dedication to their studies over the Autumn term. I know that Year 11 can be a stressful time and I am here to support each and every student. I believe that with the right attitude to work, attending lessons and doing revision, all students are capable of great things in their upcoming exams. Now is the time for students to be resilient, overcome obstacles, and embrace the challenge of this crucial stage of their education. I can't wait to celebrate with Year 11 at the prom. Both parents and students can contact me if they need any support over the coming months.

Final message from Mr Houghton

As has already been said, great Year 11 results have a huge impact on students' successful transition to their desired courses and employment next year. As a parent myself, I sometimes felt uncertain about the amount of involvement I should have with my sons' revision; looking back now, I know that they both really appreciated quite a hands-on approach. Not that I was able to teach many of the subjects, but just showing an interest, chivying along, helping plan and stick to a revision timetable, feeding treats and making cups of coffee helped keep them on track and they both said they valued that.

With school, parents and students working hard together we will have done everything possible to ensure our students' success. Please do contact us if you feel we can support or advise you in any way over the next few months at this vital time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "K Lang".

Mrs Lang
Assistant Headteacher