

February 2024

Dear Yr11 Parents & Carers,

Re: Key Messages for parents and carers of Yr11 students

This is a vital half-term for Yr11 students as the GCSE exams are on the horizon. For absolute clarity, the next few months are crucial for your child's future as they will determine what they can, and what they can't, do for the rest of their lives. In essence, 'good' grades will open a better range of options for their futures. I ask, respectfully, for parents to work with the school over the next few months, to ensure that your child achieves their full potential.

Parental Information Evening

On Thursday 21st March from 6pm I will be delivering a presentation to parents of Yr11 students. Students are also welcome to attend this with their parents. The evening will outline key expectations as well as being an open forum for a Q&A session. This will be the last formal meeting of this academic year and is an excellent opportunity for receiving key information as well as asking pertinent questions.

Attendance

I can't stress the importance of attendance to ensure that your child achieves well. It is a fact that where students have regular good attendance, they are more likely to achieve. Students in Yr11 should be aiming for 100%. For clarity, attendance matters because of the following reasons. Firstly, at St Anne's we sequence our learning and build upon prior knowledge. If your child is absent, then they will not be able to recall what has been previously learnt. Secondly, your child is safest when they are in school. Thirdly, they spend quality time socialising and forming relationships that support their general well-being and development. I ask that parents ensure that their child attends school regularly. ***Arguably, by doing so you are giving your child the best chance to succeed in the future.***

Assembly

Last week I delivered an assembly that outlined 'key messages and tips' of being successful this half term. When doing so, I reminded the children that they needed to make every day this half-term 'count'. Some of the messages included the following;

- *Work hard.* Sadly, there is no substitute for hard work and a determined effort.
- *Take responsibility.* Students need to have a mature and focused approach to their studies.
- *Success.* Will depend more on attitude than ability. Keep positive and never give up.

But the most important message was that the students themselves are the single biggest factor on whether they are successful or not. For example, are **they** attending every day? Are **they** attending intervention? Are **they** working hard in every lesson? Are **they** putting in extra work in school? Are **they** being positive?

Intervention updates

The revision sessions in the February half term, Maths, Science, Drama and Art, were successful for the students who attended, and I was very pleased with the teacher feedback. St Anne's will be holding Easter revision sessions and further details will follow. I expect all children to attend these if required. Additionally, our period 6 intervention sessions are still going strong and will continue this half term. Collectively, all these extra sessions are aimed at ensuring our students have the best opportunity to succeed this summer!

Mentoring

Our Yr11 mentoring programme continues to be a success. Identified students are meeting their mentors regularly and are being supported with revision, time management, applying for further education and improving outcomes. Parents can also 'mentor' their child by ensuring a quiet place to study, encouraging them to achieve and generally taking an interest in what they do in school.

Intermediate Maths Challenge

Last half term 9 Yr11 students were entered into this prestigious Maths challenge run by the UK Maths Trust. A massive congratulations to all these students, with 2 securing *Gold*, 3 securing *Silver* and 4 securing *Bronze* awards. Well done! This will also support them with their upcoming GCSE Maths. Furthermore, one student, Thomas Deignan, received an official invitation to the next round of the competition. This is a huge achievement! I hope you are proud of this achievement! A big thanks to the Maths staff for organising.

Study Leave

There is no planned study leave. Students are expected to attend school until their final exam in full uniform with the same expectations as before.

Prom

I ask that parents discuss with their children their GCSEs and their work rather than getting distracted by the 'Prom'. The majority of students have followed our rules by working hard and attending school and will be attending this celebration. Additionally, any Yr11 student who has been suspended twice will have their invitation withdrawn. Sadly, a number of children have had their invitations withdrawn. Furthermore, letters have been sent to those students where attendance and/or punctuality has been poor.

Upcoming dates for your perusal

- ✓ **21st March:** *Yr11 Parental Information Evening*. The last formal meeting for parents to ask questions.
- ✓ **Easter revision.** Dates are to be confirmed but we will be running a number of revision sessions.
- ✓ **Prom date.** This night of celebration has been booked for the 4th July.
- ✓ **Exams start.** 7th May for Construction students and on 9th May for all as it is the RE GCSE exam.
- ✓ **Celebration Assembly.** The provisional date is Friday 24th May. This is to be confirmed.

Importantly, there are 36 school days before the first exam on the 7th May. This time will go very quickly. It is essential to be doing **2 -3 hours of revision each night**, including weekends.

General updates

- *Timetable.* The timetable for the exams is on the school website under the Parental Information tab. It is worth looking at this with your child and discussing which exams they are sitting. This is so that you can plan their revision schedule with them.

- *Extra Mock exams.* On SACRED Day there was an opportunity to sit a further mock exam in English and Maths. Indications show that Grade 4 and above in English increased by nearly 10% and in Maths increased by nearly 14%. This shows that hard work 'pays off'. Note that there are still a few months to go, and it is all to play for.
- *Food Preparation & Nutrition.* This cohort recently completed their 3-hour practical element of this GCSE. Mrs Bowden was really impressed with their ambition, dedication, and resilience and that they really excelled in showcasing their culinary skills to create truly modern international breakfast dishes which fitted the brief perfectly. Well done!
- *BTEC Construction.* Students have completed 20% of their overall grade. The second piece of coursework, also worth 20%, is due for final submission by Wednesday 13th March 2024. After this is completed, the focus will be on exam preparation for their exam Tuesday 7th May.
- *Practical Drama exam.* This is on 7th March when the visiting examiner will watch the students perform 2 contrasting pieces from the same play. Rehearsals are well under way and the students are working hard remembering their lines and creating their characters. Good luck!
- *Music.* The performance exam will take place on 18th-20th March. Students will be performing one solo and one ensemble performance which equates to 30% of their overall GCSE. The composition deadline for both compositions is 28th March. Well done to all students who have been working hard for these deadlines.
- *Art Practical Exam.* This is 22nd April - 26th April and students have 10 hours (*split over two days*) to produce a final response for the exam question they have selected. They are currently working hard on their portfolios for this project, conducting research and producing inspired artwork.
- *PE.* Currently students are completing coursework which is 10% of their overall mark. The deadline is 21st March. The practical moderation will take place on 25th April 25 where assessment for the students' physical performance will be quality assured by AQA. This will leave a month to revise before the first exam paper of 2 towards the middle of May.

Stress and support over the next few months

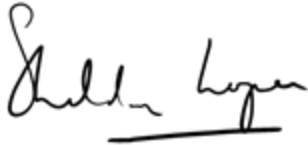
Just a reminder that St Anne's offers multiple interventions to support students with their mental health. We recognise that the next couple of months comes with a lot of pressure which can cause students to require additional support. Miss Rees, Mr Ostmeier and Mr Murphy are available to discuss any concerns you have about your child's mental health and signpost for advice and support. Remember that all students can suffer from anxiety and stress at this time of the year,

A message from Mr Murphy, Head of Yr11

With the GCSE exams fast approaching, it is great to see the majority of students working hard and putting the effort in. During the February half-term, extra revision sessions were well attended, reflecting their willingness to go the extra mile. During Easter holidays, there will be more revision sessions and I hope these sessions are also well attended and details will follow in due course. Leaver's hoodies have been ordered and will be given out during the Yr11 Celebration Assembly. I wish the best of luck to Yr11 in their exams and pray they get the outcomes they deserve.

Finally, this is a year group with potential to do well. The majority have good attitudes, and this bodes well for great results in August! However, a significant minority are doing the minimal amount of work. Sadly, this will be reflected in their GCSE grades in August if not quickly addressed. On that note, I respectfully ask that parents ensure that their child is working hard at home: working **together** is the best way for your child to achieve their potential.

As always, thanks for your continued support. **I look forward to seeing you all on the 21st March at 6pm.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mr Logue". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Mr Logue
Executive Headteacher