

January 2024

Dear parents/carers of Yr11 students

Re: Yr11 update

I write this as I believe that the next few months are, arguably, the most important few months of your child's education as it will largely determine what your child can and can't do in their futures. Last year St Anne's achieved the **best progress ever** and Ms Sutcliffe and the staff are determined to ensure that this year group become 'record-breakers'. I hope the following provides useful information.

Attendance

It is vital that your child makes every effort to attend school. I have repeatedly stated that there is a strong correlation between attendance and GCSE attainment. Letters have been sent out to some students where attendance is causing concern. I ask that parents do everything possible to ensure that their child attends school regularly. 100% attendance should be the aim. *NB. If your child's attendance is unacceptable, it is highly likely their invite to the Prom will be withdrawn. If I do so, I will have given every chance for your child to improve their attendance.*

Punctuality

In the last term, a significant and growing number of Yr11 students had poor punctuality. Again, this could show low expectations and a poor attitude towards learning. Like low attendance, this is not acceptable. Letters have been sent out to students where punctuality is a concern. *NB. If your child's punctuality is unacceptable, it is highly likely their invitation to the Prom will be withdrawn. If I do so, I will have given every chance for your child to improve their punctuality.*

Mock exams

I would like to say that my staff and I were very impressed with the conduct and maturity of the Yr11 students in the December Mocks. These are robust and are conducted under strict exam conditions. This has meant that if your child did not attend an exam, then they would have received a zero for that paper. The reality is that if this occurs in May/June then they will get a zero for that part of their exam. Mock results were given to the Yr11 students on Friday 12th January in a special assembly during Period 5. I ask that parents please speak to their children about their grades. Students will be sitting an extra English and Maths mock exam on Friday 9th February. This is another excellent opportunity to be 'exam ready'. As a school we will be meeting selected students and their parents to discuss an action plan to support your child achieving their potential.

Revision

All students should be well rehearsed in revising for their exams. This should be between 2 and 3 hours each evening. Not all students revise in the same manner but below are some tips:

- Have a quiet place to study with no distractions such as their phone
- Do not make copious notes: use key words, concepts, spider diagrams or mind-maps
- Test themselves regularly to ensure that they have remembered the subject content
- Have a structured revision timetable including dedicated revision time at weekends
- Complete past exam questions and papers. This should build their confidence over time
- Familiarise themselves with the marking schemes as this can be a powerful tool
- Revisit regularly the content learnt

As always, please ask their teacher for advice – they are there to support. My staff and I are always willing to speak to parents/carers should you require additional support or advice.

Intervention

To supplement work in class and revision at home we have targeted interventions in place. Key to Success groups during form time have been created based on attainment in Maths, English, or Science. Based on the data from the mock exams we will be changing form groups from **Monday 22nd January**. Students will be informed in advance of any changes. Intervention after school continues and I would like to see all students attend these sessions. The timetable for these sessions is as follows:

➤ Week A

Monday – Maths

Wednesday – RE

Thursday – Science

➤ Week B

Monday – English

Wednesday – History/Geography

Thursday – Option subjects

*Spanish and Art interventions will be arranged by the class teacher

Intervention during February half term and the Easter holidays will be communicated via Classcharts. Please support the school by ensuring that your child, if needed, attends these extra sessions.

Careers

All Yr11 students should have had a meeting with our Careers Adviser, Mrs Worrall. I include some general information below from Mrs Worrall about different courses at post-16 colleges:

- Entry Level and Level 1: No formal entry requirements. Evidence of previous work or a commitment to study will be required.
- Level 2: A minimum of 4 GCSEs at grade 3 or above, including English or Maths, and / or a prior achievement at Level 1.
- Level 3: A minimum of 4 GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including English or Maths.

It is important to check individual college/sixth form requirements as individual courses will have different entry requirements.

Behaviour vs. Attitudes to Learning

Overall, standards are very high at St Anne's. This is deliberate and creates a purposeful, safe, and highly conducive learning environment. The outcomes of having high standards and expectations are there for all to see. For the first time, in 2023, we achieved a 'Good' rating from Ofsted, and this was backed up by achieving our highest progress score in August 2023. The behaviour of the Yr11 students, like all our students, is good. However, their attitudes to learning are mixed. It is fundamental that students work hard in school and at home and 'believe' in themselves. Importantly, we try and instill the St Anne's mantra, '*Outstanding in all we do*', in them. If they are confident, positive and believe in themselves then they are more likely to achieve. And remember, **ALL** students can achieve their potential.

Support

As a school we recognise that the next few months can be very stressful for Yr11 students. And as a parent whose two children have gone through GCSE exams, I know that this can be difficult for them. We have a graduated approach to supporting our children. The form tutor should be the first point of call if there is an issue. We have Mr. Murphy as HOY, as well as a wider pastoral team that offer support. Support is around anxiety, resilience, wellbeing, exam stress and goal setting. They are also able to signpost on to external agencies for a more tailored approach if students require intense intervention. We also have a mentoring programme for selected students who have been identified as underachieving. Working **together** is the best way for your child to achieve their potential. I will also be doing a Yr11 'presentation' for parents on **Thursday 21st March**. I ask that parents put this date in their diary. On the evening I will impart key information and be available for a Q&A session.

Prom

Over the past few years, the Prom has been a great celebration of the hard work and 5 years at St Anne's. The Prom is by **invite only** and is not an entitlement. As I said in previous letters and in Yr11 assembly, any student who has been suspended twice will have their invite withdrawn. Last year, some students were disappointed that they couldn't attend and sadly, several of the current Yr11 have had their invites withdrawn. I don't want to retract any more students from this great end of year event.

Finally...

The staff, Ms Sutcliffe and I, are focused and working incredibly hard to ensure that your child achieves their potential this summer. As stated previously, last year we had the best progress in our history. This didn't happen by chance but through hard work and commitment from both students and staff. This meant that the vast majority of our students achieved their potential and used their exam outcomes to get on their choice of courses. I ask that parents work very closely with the school over the next few months in order that your child achieves the best grades possible which will undoubtedly, benefit their futures.

Mr Logue
Executive Headteacher

