

## Achieving Excellence

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Principal Mr M Snelson BSc (Hons), PGCE, MSc

February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **SUPPORTING YEAR 11 FOR GCSE SUCCESS**

For Year 11, studying for GCSE examinations has included year zones, lockdowns, online learning and fortunately a return to specialist areas and more 'normal lessons'. Throughout it all, Year 11 have risen to the challenges, embraced opportunities and made the most of their time in school.

There have been so many moments where students have Achieved Excellence in the classroom and beyond, which this year has resulted in bronze and silver award badges, with more to come. Just a few examples of this are: competing for school sports teams, providing musical entertainment in-person and online, working as prefects to support other students, competing in the School Sports Day in September, studying hard for ST1 in November and participating in revision sessions since then, delivering gifts to local Senior Citizens in December, and starring in our Year 11 photographs in January.

We felt this would be a useful time to provide an overview of arrangements for the rest of this academic year and beyond.

#### **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February until Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March - Year 11 Student Tracking 2 Exams**

This year's GCSEs will have reduced content, additional support or advanced information on specific content to support students with revision. The ST2 exams have the same provision and students have been carefully prepared.

The ST2 exams will provide teachers with a better understanding of what students know and don't know. This evidence will be used to plan future lessons and future interventions. The feedback from these exams will be invaluable for the students as they prepare for GCSE success in the summer.

#### **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March – GCSE Exam Timetables**

We will share a summary document with students and parents/carers which will include GCSE and BTEC exam dates, confirmation of the Ofqual arrangements for all subjects and individual exam timetables.

Sir John Deane's College will come in to school for informal discussions with all students who have applied for courses. Appointment times will be confirmed nearer the time.

#### **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March until 23<sup>rd</sup> June: Quality-First Teaching and Additional Interventions**

To be successful, students need to continue to be Ready to Learn and to Embrace Opportunities. If students work hard in lessons, listen to their teachers and build in time to revise regularly, they will make progress. Please note that prior to the exams, students will be completing Non Examined Assessments (NEA) in a variety of subjects, which will count towards students' final grades. Maximising marks in these assessments helps ensure students achieve the best grade possible.

In addition, there are a variety of **Intervention Opportunities** targeted at specific students based on how they have done in ST1 and ST2. The additional sessions may take place during tutor time, lunchtime, after-school or during EFL. Students and

parents/carers have been communicated with separately about these sessions, should they have been invited. If students would like to drop in to revision sessions they are very welcome to do so.

### **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March - Mock Results day and Reports**

Students will be provided with the grades that their teachers expect them to achieve in the summer, *if* they continue work as they are working, based on the performance in the ST2 exams. There is still time to improve and meet or exceed target and reports will identify what students need to do.

### **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March - Year 11 Parents Evening**

The evening will provide an opportunity for students and parents/carers to talk to subject teachers, reflect on the ST2 performance and plan for success in the summer GCSE exams.

### **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May until Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June - Summer 2022 GCSE Exams**

Where possible, additional revision sessions will be provided for all students immediately prior to the morning exams.

Full school uniform must be worn for examinations. Mobile phones and all watches should be placed in bags prior to entering the exam hall. Additional reminders will be shared with students. Please visit the Be Exam Smart website (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/be-exam-smart>) to ensure your child knows how to avoid exam malpractice.

Please note, exam boards have designated **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June** as a 'contingency day' for examinations. JCQ (Joint Council for Qualifications) designate the contingency day "*in the event of national or local disruption to examinations.*" JCQ state that "*Centres must therefore remind candidates that they must remain available until Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June should an awarding body need to invoke its contingency plan.*"

### **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June - Year 11 Celebration Assembly**

Our awards presentation and very special celebration will begin after the end of the GCSE Physics examination and will finish by lunchtime, when students will leave the school.

### **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June - Year 11 Prom**

This year's Prom, at Vale Royal Abbey, is an opportunity to celebrate an extraordinary year. Students should arrive ready for photographs from 6.30pm. We invite parents/carers and family to join staff as they arrive at the venue. Students will then enjoy a meal and disco before finishing at 11.00pm.

### **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August (9.00 am) - GCSE Results Day**

Students and Parents/carers are warmly invited to join staff in celebrating their child's successes. Refreshments will be provided as we host the event *on the school field*.

### **Presentation Evening**

We are busy planning a joyous and rewarding event. Details of this will be shared nearer the time

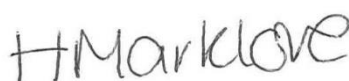
There are still so many enrichment opportunities to embrace which will help students to maximise their time now, to enjoy school life and to achieve success. We look forward to sharing in this success now and in the future as students become our Alumni.

Yours sincerely,



Mr R Warburton

Deputy Principal



Mrs H Marklove

Learning Leader, Year 11

