

Dear Parent / Carer

Re: Message to the parents and carers of pupils in Year 11

As we are now in the Spring Term and moving fast towards the exam season, I felt it was important to remind and inform you of our expectations for pupils in Year 11, as we enter this important time in their education.

We remain very proud of this cohort, whose experiences at the end of primary school and the beginning of secondary school were extremely disrupted. Some pupils have had to deal with incredibly difficult situations in their lives over the past four years and they have risen to these challenges admirably. Now that I have the pleasure of teaching a class in this year group, I can see first-hand how hard they are working and how much they want to succeed.

For the significant majority of Year 11, they do not need to be reminded of our expectations; they exhibit excellent behaviours every day and are a credit to our academy and themselves. This is particularly demonstrated by our Year 11 prefect team, who continue to do some strong work with younger pupils across our community including leading a reading intervention during form time. So many of this cohort are positive role models for our younger pupils to look up to and respect.

However, there are a minority of pupils who do need to be reminded of what we expect of them in Year 11. Usually, the mock examinations in November, provide a 'line in the sand' for pupils as they start to realise the seriousness of what they will soon face in the summer. Unfortunately, on this occasion, a small minority of pupils have continued to make disappointing decisions which have breached our code of conduct and inevitably resulted in the academy having to issue consequences in-line with our Behaviour for Learning policy. We do our utmost to try to ensure that consequences do not impact upon pupils' learning in Year 11, however, sometimes there is no other option, as the seriousness of a pupil's actions needs a clear and robust response.

Therefore, please see below if a pupil's behaviour in Year 11 continues to breach our Behaviour for Learning policy and fall short of our expectations. We will of course respond with consequences that we feel are proportionate and fair. However, we will also consider the following responses:

- A removal from all lessons and social times for a period, with alternative education provision put in place
- A removal from examinations on school site; we will arrange for the pupil to take their exams in a different location
- A review of their invitations to the end of year celebration assembly and prom
- Contacting their post-16 provider to inform them of the specific incident and a change of reference

We will be sharing this message with pupils in assembly on Monday. We sincerely hope that these consequences will not need to be applied. However, the Academy is not willing to accept inappropriate behaviour that impacts upon other pupils, our staff and the positive climate that we work hard to create. This time is too important now to waste, and I want our academy leaders and staff to be focused on what we can do to best serve and support our pupils' educational needs in the last four months, rather than investigating and dealing with incidents that relate to an individual pupil's poor decision.

On that point of support, we will continue to run as many extra intervention sessions as we can and provide targeted support in certain subjects for individual or small groups of pupils. Some of this work has already started in a range of subjects. Our upcoming Spring Mocks will help to identify the remaining gaps and inform our curriculum planning decisions for the final section, before examinations start. We will continue to keep you as updated as possible with your child's progress but, if you have any specific concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the relevant teacher or your child's form tutor and we will respond as soon as we can.

In addition to the work of form tutors, we are in the process of allocating mentors to Year 11 pupils so pupils know who else they can turn to about any concerns they may have, academic or pastoral. We are sending handwritten postcards home which capture those pupils who have been noticed by staff as having made progress, whether academic or pastoral. We are going to implement the year 11 specific extra-curricular wellbeing programme after

half term, including wellness techniques, sporting activities and other clubs that seek to maintain a healthy mind and body, in and out of the classroom.

Our Academy is absolutely committed to supporting all Year 11 pupils to receive the best possible outcomes that they can in August. I hope that you can see that the purpose of this letter demonstrates this commitment and our constant drive to achieve excellence.

Kind regards,  
Duncan Roberts

Principal