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LAS/Y11

February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

I spoke to the Year 11 students at the start of this term about connecting the jigsaw pieces for success; four key pieces which would help all students to be successful in the summer examinations. These were:

- Attendance
- Learning in lessons
- Homework and revision
- Intervention sessions after school

I am delighted to report that the vast majority of our students are making good choices in these areas. These will give them the greatest chance of securing the very best outcomes to enable them to continue their journey into post-16 education.

Students have been improving their attendance to both school and intervention sessions. You will have been receiving text messages to congratulate attendance to these, and also asking for your support if your child has not attended them. Please encourage attendance to intervention sessions, as they really do support students to be prepared effectively for exams and to be successful. More importantly, they support your child's health and wellbeing, as good preparation for exams helps to reduce stress and anxiety during the exam period.

Attendance to intervention sessions is also linked to being able to attend the prom in July. If students wish to attend the prom, they should attend 90% of their intervention sessions. Together, we can maximise attendance at this crucial stage of your child's education. If you do have any concerns regarding attendance and need further support, please contact the school directly.

GCSE grades

During the Y11 parents' evening, some parents and carers requested further information on the GCSE numerical grading system. Please see at the end of this letter a comparison of the old GCSE grading system (letters) to the new GCSE grading system (numbers), alongside the BTEC grading and comparison to GCSEs.

Examination dates

Some exams/assessments will take place after the Easter holidays from the 15 April onwards, these include the Spanish speaking exam and photography and art exams. The main GCSE and BTEC examination period starts 7 May and finishes on 26 June 2024. Attendance to school after Easter is critical in order to ensure that your child is ready for these exams. In lessons, students will be revising and recalling key concepts, as well as practicing exam style questions. Please ensure that your child attends school each day.

Your child will be provided with an individual examination timetable from Miss Evans, our Exams Officer, before Easter. You have been sent a copy of the Candidate Handbook to your email address. Please take the time to familiarise yourself with the contents.

Year 11 Revision Session and Parental Revision Evening

On the afternoon of Friday 1 March we will be running a Y11 Revision Support session to run through practical exam preparation techniques. We would also like to support families by holding a Parental Revision Evening on Wednesday 13 March at 6pm.

If you are interested in attending the evening, please click on the link below to register your interest. We will be in contact with you before the evening to confirm the final details.

[Parental Revision Session Registering Interest](#)

Student Wellbeing

Should you be concerned about the wellbeing of your child during the forthcoming weeks, please do not hesitate to contact the school directly, or visit our website main page and scroll down to the Support Services section, where you will be able to access the Derbyshire Directory of Support. We are here to support you and your child.

Uniform

We take great pride in our students wearing our Parkside uniform. As role models for other year groups, please ensure that your child is wearing the correct uniform to school. May I take this opportunity to remind parents/carers that we do not allow leggings to be worn in school. Failure to wear school uniform may result in your child being unable to access lessons so please support your child by sending them in the correct uniform.

Thank you for your continued support. Please do get in touch with me if you have any queries as we enter this important period for your child. I look forward to seeing you at our Parental Revision Evening in March.

Kindest regards,

Mrs Asher
Deputy Headteacher

Old grades	New grades
A*	9
	8
A	7
	6
B	5 STRONG PASS
	4 STANDARD PASS
C	3
	2
D	1
	U
E	U
	U
F	U
	U
G	U
	U
U	U
	U

BTEC Grade (Level 2)	GCSE Equivalent
Distinction* (D*)	9
	8
Distinction (D)	7
	6
Merit (M)	5
	4
Pass (P)	3
	2
Level 1 Distinction	1
Level 1 Merit	
Level 1 Pass	