



PARKSIDE

COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Small School ♦ Strong Values ♦ Great Experiences

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Dear Parents/Carers

Sam Learning and Year 11 revision

Y11 have an exciting and busy term of learning ahead of them. You will have read in Mr Kelly's letter that we have introduced the SAM Learning platform to support and extend students' learning. Studies show that independent revision at home is key to raising achievement and being successful in the summer exams. Staff will be setting homework on SAM Learning and there are weekly A.I. challenges in maths, English Language, biology, chemistry and physics. Please encourage your child to complete these.

The A.I. feature of the platform will guide your child to fill their learning gaps automatically, extend their knowledge and support their revision based upon their progress over the academic year. It is an exciting feature which will massively benefit students who use SAM Learning on a regular basis. On the learning platform website, in the 'support' section, there are lots of tips for how to support your child with using SAM Learning but should you require further information on how SAM Learning can support your child, please attend a parental drop-in on Thursday 28 November 5.30pm – 7pm in the school's library.

<https://platform.samlearning.com>

The Year 11 Prom

We are excited to officially launch our 'Passport to the Prom'. The prom is part of Parkside's reward programme, celebrating the end of the students' secondary education and rewarding them for their hard work leading up to the exam period. This year the prom will be held on **Friday 4 July at the Double Tree Hilton, Sheffield**. Today, I spoke to Y11 students about how the passport to the prom is designed to help them to focus their efforts in the lead up to their GCSE exams. There is no automatic right to attend the prom and students must meet termly targets to be able to attend. These targets are based around the following criteria:

- Attendance
- Effort and focus in lessons
- Attending intervention sessions
- Completing homework

Students will be told at the end of each term if they have met these targets. In the unlikely event that students are not meeting these targets, individual communication with both student and families will occur which could put their place at the prom at risk.



Our half term 2 prom qualification targets are:

Target 1: Positive attendance

Target 2: Positive attitude to learning in lessons (no C2s, no truancy)

Target 3: 30 mins of SAM Learning each week

Target 4: Positive attitude to learning in your intervention sessions next week

Subject intervention sessions

This week is a key milestone for students as we are running intervention sessions for option subjects on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday; this is to support the controlled assessment deadlines which are approaching. Attendance to school this week is crucial, as students will have the opportunity to complete key pieces of work to enable them to be in the strongest position moving forward. In some subjects, this piece of work is worth 30% of their final grade. Therefore, please ensure that your child has 100% attendance this week.

Key dates for Year 11

Our key dates for this term are below:

- 12, 13 and 15 November Option Blocks B-D subject interventions.
- 6 December – Deadline for Creative IMedia, BTEC Sport, Health and Social Care and Performing Arts controlled assessment.
- End of December deadline for Art and Photography portfolios
- 9 – 16 December GCSE Mock Exams

Further information regarding the mock exams will be communicated over the next few weeks.

We recognise that this year can be a difficult time for students and we continue to be vigilant and supportive in relation to the health and well-being of students, as well as developing their resilience. By being mindful of the following, students can help to minimise the stress of preparing for, and sitting exams:

- Connecting the jigsaw pieces – this means excellent attendance, attitude to learning in lessons, intervention engagement, homework and revision
- Balance – study and social time
- Health – sleep, eat, exercise
- Support – ask for help

In their Personal Development (PD) lessons, students have been given a 'Revision Launchpad' booklet, containing advice on how to revise and revision strategies. There are also useful links related to exam stress and worries. Please click on the link below to access a copy of this booklet to support your child at home.

<https://bit.ly/4hAAnSi>

As always, please contact me if you would like to discuss anything in relation to Y11. I look forward to working with you to provide the best possible support for your child during this incredibly important time for them.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Leanne Asher

Deputy Headteacher (Quality of Education)