

Date: 14.09.20



Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to write to you personally to provide you with more detail regarding the catch-up programme we have in place for your child as they enter their last year at the academy. I am very aware that being in Year 11 is always a time of anxiety for students but I am particularly mindful at this time of the added pressure starting Year 11 during the Covid-19 pandemic brings. As you may be aware the Department for Education (DfE) has provided advice to schools and colleges regarding how to help Year 11 students, this includes changes that Ofqual have made to the examination series for 2021. Please find the latest DfE guidance here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools#section-3-curriculum-behaviour-and-pastoral-support>

This guidance explains that, *'it is likely that pupils in key stage 4 and 5 will need extra support to catch up on any content they have missed, but the school curriculum may be less flexible given the requirements of qualification specifications'* and goes on to note, *'To ensure exams and assessments next summer are as fair as possible...Ofqual has consulted on proposed adaptations to exams'*. In addition, the guidance explains, *'it may be in the best interests of a year 11 pupil to discontinue an examined subject because the school judges that, for example, they would achieve significantly better in their remaining subjects as a result, especially in GCSE English and mathematics'* With this in mind I can confirm the following decisions have been made in order to fully support your child and ensure they gain the best possible outcomes and secure their first Post 16 choice next year.

- As an Academy students since 2018 have taken an additional GCSE therefore studying 9 subjects. Students only need to study 8 subjects and so the decision has been made to reduce subjects to 8 and therefore give more curriculum time to other subjects. Doing this has allowed for an additional 3 hours of extra learning per week. Teachers have planned additional catch-up time for their subjects to ensure all subject content has been covered. This has been done through discussions with your child and their teachers. If any parent would like to discuss this further please do not hesitate to get in touch with Mr Collins or Mr McEvoy
- Intervention/small group Tutoring. We will be providing students with extra support through the use of the National Tutoring programme, details from the Government are yet to be fully released, however, I can confirm that as an academy we will work with the Tutor Trust
- Smaller classes. In order for students to receive more focused support from their teachers we have split the year group into six classes instead of the five used last year. This will allow teachers to have more 1:1 time with each student in their class and so focus on what each child needs to do to improve
- Ofqual consultation and decision on examinations 2021. It has been announced that adaptations will be made to the specifications for some subjects, for example History and English Literature. Teachers of these subjects have looked carefully at what will best support our students and amended what will be taught in line with this.



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There are many more interventions and plans in place to support our Year 11 students and Mr Collins will write to you with more details about this in coming weeks.  
I will end by saying that I would once again like to reassure you that our Year 11 students are our number one priority and we will work tirelessly to support them through this difficult year.  
Please do not hesitate to get in touch should you have any questions/concerns

With warm regards  
Mrs Marie Dillon  
Principal



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