



FAO: Parents & Carers of Year 11 Students

RE: GCSE Update

Dear Parents / Carers

As we near the end of the first term of this academic year, I hope this letter finds you and your families safe and well at this time.

Following the announcement yesterday (**Thursday 3rd December**) by the Secretary of State for Education on, I would like to share with you on our arrangements to support our Year 11 students through to the end of this academic year. Since our return in **September 2020**, our focus for Year 11 has been:

- Supporting the safe return of our students to the classroom and learning
- Catching up with curriculum content to build knowledge and develop understanding
- Help and support students with their Post-16 applications

Having been out of the classroom for so long, we felt it was vitally important that students concentrated on learning this term rather than the distraction of mock examinations. Students in Year 11 have really engaged and demonstrated great commitment towards their studies, both in and out of the classroom since their return. During these very difficult times attendance has exceed national average and I would like to take this opportunity, to not only praise our students but also recognise the efforts of our parents and carers in supporting this.

Following the announcement yesterday by the government, it is now very clear that the intention is for the GCSE examinations in England to take place as planned in **May & June 2020**. Whilst you may or may not agree with this, it gives us a very clear focus for Year 11 over the next 6 months. Today students were given the mock exam timetable for **January 2021**, which clearly indicates the start of Phase 2 of the Year 11 curriculum. A copy of this timetable can be found [here](#).

To support our Year 11 in preparation for their GCSE examinations the following actions have and will be implemented. Please note that these actions are set out in chronological order:

- Our annual 'Adopt a Year 11' mentoring programme is well underway. Students are aware of the programme and if they have any questions should speak to Mrs Hart (Head of Year) or Mrs Graham (Assistant Headteacher) who will be more than happy to help
- Today we are launching the Year 11 section on the College website. On the homepage is a [Year 11](#) tab, which will house important information, resources and links for students and parents. Current content includes the [Mock Exam Timetable](#), [GCSE Exam Timetable](#) and a [document](#) that provides links to exam board websites, subject specification documents as well as assessment materials and resources.
- Over the next 3 weeks prior to the mock examinations, the curriculum for the timetabled tutorial period each day will focus on exam technique and preparation. Students will receive generic revision strategies alongside a series of subject specific virtual masterclasses. All materials will be made available to students via the College VLE and the Year 11 section of the website.
- The termly progress report will be made available to students and parents during the week beginning **Monday 14th December 2020**.
- The first two external exams for the 2021 examination season will take place upon our return in **January 2021**. These are Music (**Thursday 7th**) and Child Development (**Wednesday 13th**).

HEADTEACHER: Mr G Rule

- The Year 11 mock examinations will take place between **Monday 11th** and **Friday 22nd January 2021**. A copy of the mock exam timetable can be found [here](#).
- We are currently working on a timetable that will see increased curriculum time in the building for Year 11 students after the mock exams. From the week beginning, **Monday 25th January** we are aiming to remove the personal study and Friday afternoon home learning elements from the timetable for all Year 11 students. These will be replaced by additional classroom based curriculum time for three subject areas, delivered by subject specialists. Further details regarding this will follow.
- Subject analysis from the mock examinations will lead to the introduction of targeted Period 6 revision classes from January until the GCSE examinations. These sessions will be timetabled but could be subject to change due to staff availability.
- Year 11 written reports will be shared with parents / carers during the week **Monday 22nd February 2021**.
- We aim to host an online Year 11 Parents' Evening on **Thursday 25th February 2020**. We are currently working to identify the best package for our IT systems and will share further details of this with parents early in the New Year.

As a parent with a child currently in Year 11, I share your concerns regarding the impact that this pandemic is having on the education of our young people and how this will affect their exams, as well as the uncertainty of what the future holds for them. What I do know is that these young people are determined to do well, their futures are still to be written and with all of us working as a team to support and guide them I know they can achieve great things.

I would once again like to thank you for your ongoing support in the education of the students at Denton Community College.

Yours sincerely



Greg Rule
Headteacher