

30 November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Year 11 learners

We are keen to support all learners to prepare for their GCSE exams next summer. For clarity, we are setting out below how we are doing this:

The curriculum:

Our teachers have mapped the work that may have been missed, or learnt incompletely, in Year 10. Subject leads have planned the curriculum for Year 11 to ensure this content is covered either as part of other topics or retaught. Therefore, all content and skills will be covered in lesson time.

In September lessons focused on lots of questioning, and activities designed to pick up gaps or areas of low confidence.

These strategies have meant that current lessons support all learners to close gaps, and teachers are asked to deliver lessons that are planned to regularly revisit and practice knowledge and skills. Each half term a document is being shared via the school newsletter that shows what year 11 are studying in each subject.

Additionally, there has been some extra time added to our delivery model towards the end of Year 11 given that the examinations have been pushed back. More information will follow on this.

Closing gaps in knowledge and skills:

We have looked thoroughly at the data we have, to identify those learners who have more gaps than others. Focused support sessions will be delivered to these identified learners. This target group will be reviewed regularly but we do not intend to deliver blanket revision sessions for all of year 11 at this point in the year.

We are also providing after school sessions in subjects, such as DT, dance and drama, where practical elements have been more impacted by pupils not being in school. Those pupils have been informed directly.

Most revision sessions after school will be delivered via Teams and these have already started in some subjects.

Year 11 are performing very well and have an excellent work ethic. We continue to be impressed by how focused they are. We are running a second set of assessments at the start of December and more in March. These assessments are focusing on recall of key concepts, skills needed to answer questions and building pupil confidence.

Due to the current lockdown status we have chosen to run the December assessments in classrooms, as this worked so well in October. We will then aim for the March assessments to take place in the Sports Hall. You will receive a grade sheet at the start of the spring term, as pupils return to school in January.

Supporting your child at home:

Every pupil in Year 11 should be revising. A revision resource is attached to this letter. They will need to try a range of strategies and find the ways that best suit them. They should plan to revise steadily throughout year 11, and subject homework will be set to help them. We would ask you to encourage your child to maintain a reasonable workload. If your child is working all the time, encourage them to take breaks, exercise and engage in other activities. If your child has so far not started revision, encourage them to complete half an hour of work and ask them to do one subject each evening to build up a habit.

This is also a useful link: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zw8qpbk>

In general, useful resources include:

Seneca Learning

<https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/>

Bitesize

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/>

We would also recommend the Learning Scientists website. Please look through the six strategies they recommend for pupils to use to make their independent learning as effective as possible. Watch the videos with your child or look through the presentations. All the strategies are easy to implement at home, as well as in the classroom. <https://www.learningscientists.org/videos>

GCSE exams:

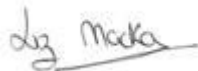
We are taking a very clear strategy with Year 11 pupils and we are steadily preparing them for their exams. The uncertainty caused by the pandemic is very unhelpful for your child, for you and for teachers, but the school is very keen to maintain that calm approach.

Having a child take GCSE exams is a stressful time for parents each year, and we understand that this year is more challenging than most. We would encourage you to continue to communicate with us, via subject teachers, form tutors, Mr Kane (Year Leader) or directly via email.

Best wishes



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Head of School
Wootton Upper School



Dr Mackay
Deputy Head (Teaching and learning)