

13 January 2016

Dear Parent / Carers of year 11 students

I hope you have all had a good Christmas and New Year, and are ready for what will be a very challenging time! The next 6 months are so crucial for your child, and we are all here to support them in every way that we can. Please do contact us via telephone or on our email addresses at the end of the letter with any issues; however small they might seem.

This letter is just to address a couple of points regarding dates and events over the next few months; although there will be lots more information coming out to you as we move further into the term.

### Exams

As year 11 have now completed their mock exams, the next formal exams that they take will be their 'real' GCSE examinations. As soon as the exam timetables have been issued by the exam boards, and we have students' individual timetables, we will get these sent home to you. Please be aware that we have to pay to enter students for every exam, a cost which is obviously covered by the school, however if students do not attend an exam which they are entered for then the charge will be passed on to yourselves. Illness can only be accepted if covered by a medical note. There are strict rules, set out by the exam boards, about whether students can be admitted into the exam room if they arrive late (more of this will be sent out to you nearer the time) and exams cannot be changed and taken at a later date unless there is a 'clash' (if this is the case, other strict rules also apply). I cannot emphasise strongly enough how important it is that, during the exam period, the exams are students' number one priority. Part time jobs and other activities may need to take a back seat at this point; and we are happy to speak to employers if this becomes an issue. Students are expected to wear full school uniform during the exam period.

### Year 11 Parents Evening and Information Evening

The next year 11 parents evening is on the 1<sup>st</sup> March, and this will be another opportunity to meet with all of your child's teachers to ensure that progress is as good as it should be at this vital stage. We also plan to hold a year 11 information evening the week after, on the 9<sup>th</sup> March. Further details will follow this letter, but the plan would be that parents and pupils could attend this event together and information could be given by subject leaders about revision technique and other skills to help maximise exam preparation time and performance.

### Prom

The prom is booked for Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June and will take place at York Racecourse. Further information, including ticket pricing, will be sent out nearer the time. The prom is always a fantastic event and I hope that all year 11 students feel that they want to attend. Please be aware that students are responsible for getting to, and from, York Racecourse. In previous years parents have

organised for an open-top bus to transport a number of students to and from the venue and those who wish to travel on it have made a contribution. This is a great idea but is not something which the school can organise. The reason the prom is booked for the 30<sup>th</sup> June is because the exams will be over by then. If you are considering booking an early summer holiday and need to book before you have the individual exam timetable, please do not book for any date before 30<sup>th</sup> June just to be safe.

### Hoodies

As in previous years, year 11 will be given the opportunity to purchase a 'Leaver's Hoody' if they wish to. The cost of these will be £23. However, in order to maintain our high standards of uniform they will not be given this until their Leavers Assembly, which normally takes place at a convenient time during the examination period, and they will not be able to be worn in school during the examination period. An order form will be given to students after February half term and if they wish to order a hoody, the money will need to be paid by Easter as it takes a number of weeks to embroider and personalise these items.

Once again, please do contact us at any time over the next few months if you have any issues or concerns.

Kind Regards



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