

1 December 2015

Dear parent/carer

Y11 additional learning sessions

Y11 is a critical and intense time. It is crucial that students, parents/carers and staff work together closely, from the start, so that achievement is high. There are now **fewer than one hundred days** before the first summer examinations begin.

We have begun a regular programme of additional learning sessions, which are taking place, in the main, after 2:40pm each day. The timetable is as follows:

- Mondays – sciences
- Tuesdays – English
- Wednesdays (week 1) – option block A – (see print copy for details)
- Wednesdays (week 2) – option block D – (see print copy for details)
- Thursdays – mathematics
- Fridays (week 1) – option block B – (see print copy for details)
- Fridays (week 2) – option block C – (see print copy for details).

Those students who are required at specific sessions will be informed of this by their teacher/s. **These students must attend.** If you wish to check whether your child is required to attend, please do contact the school. Those students who are not required are, however, welcome to attend nevertheless. A range of students are already involved in additional learning sessions before school, and with mathematics mentors after school – these sessions will continue and attendance remains compulsory. **The senior year study zone continues to open from 7:30am each day** and is an ideal venue to carry out some pre-school learning, while having a healthy, free breakfast at the same time. Please encourage your child to take full advantage of this opportunity.



I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that the Y11 homework expectation is **two hours per week per examined subject**. If you are concerned that your child is not doing this amount of homework please do contact the school **immediately** – we need to make the most of every moment of possible learning time.

In addition, as explained at the parent/carer consultation meetings, we will be running a full set of mock examinations just before we break up for the Christmas holidays. These will take place in full examination conditions, as part of preparation for the summer. The majority of examinations will be held during weeks commencing **7 December and 14 December** – it is even more critical than normal that students attend all day, every day – these examinations will be used to inform the very targeted revision and teaching sessions which will take place immediately after the Christmas break.

Finally, we are in the process of arranging an additional study support “boot camp” session. This will involve students travelling to Mersea on the **afternoon of Friday 15 January 2016, staying the night, and returning to school early evening on Saturday 16 January**. Further information will be provided shortly. Students will receive support with their English and mathematics revision, and revision skills in general, as well as taking part in a range of enjoyable activities. We expect all students to attend this residential as it is an essential part of their preparation for summer examinations. There will be a cost (to be confirmed) but this will be kept to a minimum. The academy is committed to ensuring that every pupil can participate in all school activities. If the cost is too great please contact the academy to discuss the situation, as additional financial support will be provided where there is a need. We are also willing to agree payment over a number of weeks.

Many thanks for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully

Amanda Phillips

Principal