



Year 11 Autumn Term 2020 Newsletter

Dear parents and carers

We are delighted and relieved to welcome Year 11 back for the start of the new school year. It is lovely to see so many familiar faces back in school, and we are all getting used to the new measures we've had to put in place. We are particularly focused on the well-being of everyone in our school community as we return to the new normal. If there are any issues you think we should be aware of, please let us know.

New procedures

Year 11 are entering and leaving school by the PE doors each day, a new experience for everyone involved. There are no school bells, as every year group ends their lessons at a different time. We're not sure if we'll ever get used to it, but we're all trying our best to make it work.

In order to support each other it is vital that the students are on time. Year 11 need to arrive at 9.00am for a 9.05am lesson start. Failure to arrive on time will mean the additional Health and Safety systems that have been put in place will be at risk. We thank you for your support with this very important part of our safety procedures. The school day for Year 11 ends at 3.10pm, as before.

Obviously, full school uniform is now required for all students in years 7 to 11. It would be beneficial if students could bring a small bottle of hand sanitiser with them to school. At the moment, masks are not compulsory, but we would strongly encourage all students to have their own face mask to wear when moving around the corridors or when they are congregated together in their year bubble. Please can students be considerate of others and not wear a mask that would be considered offensive or frightening. We also ask that they have a clear bag to keep their mask in so that it remains clean throughout the day.

Students must look after their equipment as staff cannot lend this out. We will provide all students with a basic pack at the beginning of term and they will need to look after this and their own equipment carefully.

Year 11 information evening

This is a very early newsletter, so that we can provide information on the Year 11 information evening which is scheduled for next week. Unfortunately, due to the current constraints this will be recorded and will be available online by Friday 11 September 2020. We will provide further details to you in relation to how you find this.

During the information evening we will be exploring:

- Coping with GCSE courses post-lockdown
- Exam update and revision advice
- Graduation from KS4
- What happens after KS4
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If you have a specific question that you would like answered at this event, please contact us by the end of Monday through year11enquiries@caludoncastle.co.uk or by replying to this newsletter.

Team 11

The leadership of the year team is the same as last year. Mrs Edwards remains as Year Leader, with Ms Hutchinson as Strategic Lead for the year. Miss Graham, Miss Miller and Mr Buckingham will all provide support to the year team, and we are overseen by Mr Carter, KS4 Deputy Head. We also have the direct support of Mrs Elfring and Mr Varney, Student Support Mentors. Due to staff changes at the school, there have been a couple of changes to tutors, given in bold in the list below. The new tutors were introduced to their tutor groups online in the final weeks of last term, to ease the way into Year 11.

11.1 Ms Fell

11.2 Mrs Hensman

11.3 Miss Rogers

11.4 Mrs Fletcher

11.5 Ms Howell
11.6 Mrs Vincent
11.7 Mr Chester-Brown

11.8 Miss Crickmore / Mr Riding
11.9 Ms Reddington

Coming up this year for Year 11

As you will see from the list below, we have tried to keep the school calendar for Year 11 as empty as possible, to allow them to continue with their studies. We have highlighted the events to which parents and carers are invited, and hope to see you at the events relevant to your child. At the moment, plans for these have been made to enable social distancing. All dates are provisional, and depend on government guidance over the coming months. In particular, exam dates are still under consideration by the government. Although dates for these are given below, they could be changed. We would advise that, until we have more information, students remain available for exams right up to the end of the summer term.

Saturday 24 October – Sunday 1 November

Week beginning 16 November

Wed 9 and Thur 10 December

Saturday 19 December – Sunday 3 January

Tuesday 26 January

Wed 3 – Thur 11 Feb

Friday 12 February

Saturday 13 February – Sunday 21 February

Thursday 1 April

Friday 2 April – Sunday 18 April

Monday 3 May

Friday 14 May

Saturday 29 May – Sunday 6 June

Wednesday 23 June

Tuesday 29 June.

Thursday 26 August

Half-term holiday

Y11 assessment week

Y11 Subject evening 3.30-5.30pm

Christmas holiday

Provisional Post-16 opportunities evening

Y11 mock exams

Teacher day – students not in school

Half-term holiday

Year 11 & 13 in school, other students not in school

Easter holiday

Bank Holiday – students not in school

First of the written papers for GCSE

Half-term holiday

Last of the written papers for GCSE

Contingency day in case of national disruption to exams

Exam results available to Y11 students

Options and exams

Before we finished for the summer, we asked all Year 10 students (as they were then) whether they would drop one option subject if they could, to enable them to concentrate on the others. A little over half the year group told us they would prefer to drop a subject. We will be returning to this idea in the coming weeks, and will contact you separately about it.

There are some changes to some of the exams and coursework for the current Year 11 as a one-off, because of the time they have missed in school. Each subject has been separately considered in a national consultation. None of the changes are huge, but collectively they should take some of the extra pressure off.

As always, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have questions or concerns. We wish everyone a successful year, and look forward to seeing you and talking to you in the months ahead.

Year 11 Team