

Year 11 October 2020 Newsletter



Dear parents and carers,

Hopefully you have seen the first of the fortnightly newsletters from the school to parents. On this occasion, we have a lot to share about Y11 in particular, so have chosen to send you an additional newsletter.

Change to exam dates

The Department for Education this week released new plans for the GCSE exams taking place in the Summer of 2021. They are pushing the vast majority of the exams back to after the May half term. The exceptions are that one English GCSE paper and one Maths GCSE paper will take place before half term. By separating the papers in this way, if any student is affected by illness or the need to isolate at that point, they should be able to sit at least one of their papers in these crucial subjects.

The **main exam series will now run from 7 June to 2 July**, with the results being given out on **Friday 27 August**. This will allow the following academic year to start as usual. The actual dates for the individual exams are still provisional at the moment. The government have also said they will release more information and possible contingencies in case of further disruption in approximately six weeks' time. We will obviously keep you informed of these plans. In the meantime, please make sure you don't make any plans to have Y11 (and Y12 or Y13) students out of school until after 2 July.

Intervention and support sessions

As part of our continued support for Y11 students, tutor time and after-school intervention sessions will continue to run after half term. After-school sessions in the first four weeks, from the week beginning 2 November up to and including the week beginning 23 November, will be for the core subjects. English will be on Tuesday, Maths on Wednesday and Science on Thursday. These sessions will be targeted to address students' weaknesses, so specific students will be invited to attend sessions that will be of benefit to them. We will also plan to offer an open room for these subjects to help with any general support. The last three weeks of half term will then revert to support for the option subjects, again with targeted sessions.

Careers, including an information evening for parents

All students now have to remain in education or training up to the age of 18, so the main options available to students post-16 and beyond are shown below.

Year 11	Post-16		Post-18
Full-time compulsory education, leading to level 2 qualifications (GCSEs, BTECs etc)	Sixth-form, to study for level 3 qualifications (A levels and BTECs), usually in 3 subjects.	Leading to...	University or college, to study for level 3 to 6 qualifications, usually in 1 subject.
	College or school (on-year sixth form), to study for level 2 or level 3 qualifications, usually in 1 subject.		Higher level or degree apprenticeship
	Level 2 or level 3 apprenticeship, combining on-the-job training with an employer and a college place.		Employment

During the final week before the half-term holiday, tutor sessions will be given over to an introduction to this year's careers programme. This introduction will include presentations about the three post-16 pathways, giving students the information they need to investigate further over half-term. Applications are already open or are about to open for some apprenticeships and college courses for 2021-22. The application process for sixth form will begin later this academic year.

After half-term, tutors will work in more depth with their tutees, on the careers programme. We suggest that all students have at least a plan A and a plan B for what they want to do next year. Students can make multiple applications, making their final decision after they have received their grades in the summer.

We would normally be holding careers fairs for students with their parents and carers, both this term and next. Under the present circumstances this is not possible. Instead, we are arranging an **online careers event for parents and carers for Tuesday 1 December**, starting at 6pm. We currently have representatives from the school and the Apprenticeships Service booked to speak and answer questions, and are also hoping to have representatives from a local university and a local college. It will be possible to attend for just part of the event if this is appropriate for you. If you would like to attend this event, please let Ms Hutchinson know so that you can be sent a link to access the event.

There will be a virtual post-16 options event for the Caludon sixth form before Christmas. We will let you know when the date has been confirmed.

Coming up for Y11

As always at the moment, these dates may be subject to change, depending on circumstances at the time.

Sat 24 October – Sun 1 November

Week beginning 16 November

Tues 1 December

Wed 9 and Thur 10 December

Sat 19 December – Sun 3 January

Half-term holiday

Y11 assessment week

Online careers event for parents and carers

Y11 Subject evening 3.30-5.30pm

Christmas holiday

Wed 3 – Thur 11 Feb

Fri 12 February

Sat 13 February – Sun 21 February

Thur 29 March

Y11 mock exams

Teacher day – students not in school

Half-term holiday

Y11 and 13 in school, other students not in school

Easter holiday

Mon 3 May

Late May

Bank Holiday – students not in school

First of the written papers for GCSE: Maths and English

Sat 29 May – Sun 6 June

Mon 7 June

Fri 2 July

Half-term holiday

Main written papers for GCSE

End of written papers for GCSE

Fri 27 August

Exam results available to Y11 students

Thank you for your support so far this year. If you have any questions please get in touch.

The Year 11 Team