



06.09.2021

Dear Parent,

Welcome to Year 11

I hope you had a restful break and your child is looking forward to the school year ahead. We are all very excited about kicking off the academic year.

Each year, I work closely with the Head of Year 11 to support students as they make the final preparations for their GCSE examinations. I am very much looking forward to working with Mrs Evans and the year 11s next year. I will be in contact with you regularly during the year.

Despite the disruption caused by national lockdowns and periods of isolation, our year 11s are in a very strong position to achieve incredibly well in their GCSEs. I can say that with confidence as we typically use the same, or very similar, assessments at the same points each year. It enables us to track students' progress each year and compare them with previous cohorts. At this stage, our students are on track to do very well and should be proud of their progress during year 10.

Year 11 is a busy year for all students and the academic demands are high. It can, at times, be challenging but will also be hugely rewarding. We always conduct exit interviews with year 11s at the end of their Cantell journey and there are four key themes that come up repeatedly as helping students to achieve well and manage the pressure:

- 1) Stick to deadlines for homework and coursework - it stops work from piling up.
- 2) Take on board the feedback from teachers and act upon it - you will see marks and grades improve.
- 3) Prepare for in-class tests and mock exams - it reduces how much you need to learn in the summer.
- 4) Work hard, play hard - Don't give up hobbies, clubs or sport. Earn them and enjoy them.

During year 11, please do contact us if you think your child is struggling in any way. We will do all we can to support them.

Lesson A

The school day starts at 8.30am with Lesson A. It is vital that your child arrives from 8.15am to be on time every day. Your child has been assigned to a Lesson A group that, in addition to providing pastoral care, delivers targeted English or Maths support every morning.

School Day 8.30am - 3.30pm

The Year 11 school day is 30 minutes longer than for other year groups. The last lesson of the day finishes at 3.30pm. The additional 30 minutes provides an opportunity for students to complete coursework or homework, catch up if they have been absent or take part in subject based enrichment and support. If your child is on-track with their work and has completed all homework, they will be permitted to leave at 3pm each day.



We may not be able to confirm in advance whether your child will finish at 3.00pm or 3.30pm as the work completed during the last lesson of the day could dictate the need for them to stay or not. We would obviously allow your child to contact you if they need to make alternative travel arrangements. Classrooms and IT facilities are available after school each day for students and we would encourage your child to make use of them until 3.30pm if they wish to.

Mobile Phones

There are occasions when a mobile phone is useful in lessons and the teacher will permit students to use them to take photos of the whiteboard or take part in an interactive quiz. We do however insist that mobile phones are turned off and in students' bags during lesson time. We want students to be as focused as possible during lessons and the distraction and temptation to check your phone when it buzzes is simply too great.

Mock Exams

Mock exams will be staggered through the year to give students the chance to fully prepare for each set of exams. Whilst dates are yet to be confirmed, they are likely to be as follows:

Week commencing 15/11/2021 - English and Maths
Week commencing 10/01/2022 - Science and Options
Week commencing 14/02/2022 - English and Maths
Week commencing 28/02/2022 - Science and Options

In some subjects, mock exams will sit outside these periods, as appropriate to the qualification and its assessment schedule.

Yours sincerely,



Dave Gill
Assistant Headteacher

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