



WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

Our ref: ESH/TA

October 2023

Year 11

Dear Parent/Guardian

The New Academic Year – 2023/24

I hope that your child is now fully ready for their final GCSE year. As we start to get back into the swing of the new term, I would like to inform you of key dates, PSHE for Year 11 this term and vital information as your child prepares to finish their GCSE courses.

The Year 11 PSHE programme is an integral part of your child's education and covers a wide range of topics preparing them for the future. Much of our programme is focusing on preparations for Post 16. We have a whole morning devoted to Post-16 options on Tuesday 17 October with information on our Sixth Form, college courses, and apprenticeships. Our Sixth Form Information Evening is on Thursday 25 January. Students should continue to collect evidence for their Progress Files, these will be used for discussion for Sixth Form places, college courses and apprenticeships and is a document students should be proud of. You will need to be monitoring when college open days, other sixth form open days etc are and arrange to take your child as you see necessary.

Year 11 Parents' Evening takes place on Thursday 18 January and will give you an indication of the progress your child is making following their performance in the mock GCSEs. In addition, we are holding a separate evening devoted to revision techniques and subject-specific information in a 'Striving for Excellence' evening on Thursday 8 February. Further details of both evenings will follow. Mock exams will take place during the week commencing 20 November; results from these will help students think about applying for Post-16 options and can help inform our decision as to the best route for them also. The Year 11 Report will be issued in March.

Our school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of our students this is of paramount importance. With this in mind, I would like to remind you that we will not tolerate any child-on-child abuse, which can include bullying, physical abuse, sexual violence and harassment and misogyny. We do not accept excuses such as 'banter', 'part of growing up', 'it was for a laugh'. We do not accept body shaming, sexting (consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude images and semi-nude images and videos). All reports of any of the above will be investigated and dealt with in line with school policy. Students' online behaviour also continues to be a priority and we do a lot of work educating students on keeping themselves safe, but we would appreciate parents and carers monitoring their child's online presence and to report to the police any concerns. If you would like any further information on this, or any other safeguarding matters, please contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead – Mr Muir, Assistant Headteacher or Miss Griffiths, the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, in school.

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Please can I ask for your continued support in ensuring reply slips are returned promptly and that the school's uniform and equipment policies are adhered to fully. Should you have any problems or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me via email or phone. Can I just ask you to be aware that due to teaching commitments it is not always possible to meet with parents unannounced, though I shall always endeavour to return a phone call on the same day.

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Summary of key dates for your diary:

Post 16 Morning	-	Tuesday 17 October 2023
Year 11 Mock Exams	-	Monday 20- Friday 24th November 23
Parents' Evening	-	Thursday 18 January 2024
Sixth Form Open Evening	-	Thursday 25 January 2024
'Striving for Excellence' Evening	-	Thursday 8 Feb 2024
Year 11 Leavers Day	-	Thursday 9 May 2024
Sixth Form Induction days	-	Wednesday 26 June, Thursday 27 June, Friday 28 June
Year 11 Prom	-	TBC usually 1st week in July 2024

We have a number of students who suffer with severe nut allergies in school. Therefore, students must not bring nuts into school. This includes nuts in packed lunches and snack bars.

I look forward to working with you in partnership again this year.

Yours faithfully

Mrs E Hanson
Head of Year 11