

20th February 2024

Dear Parents / Carers

I am writing to provide a Year 11 update as we head into this final half term before the summer exams. It was wonderful to see so many students attending the booster sessions in the academy over the half-term break, and to see parents and carers with students at our recent parents' evening. It is really pleasing to see our community coming together to do the very best for our young people to ensure they're well prepared for their exams and the next steps in their bright futures.

I hope that you have managed to review your child's Praising Stars 3 certificate that was shared just before the end of the half-term. Your child received their certificate detailing their effort and predicted grades in each of their subjects; the certificate can also be found on the Outwood portal via your mobile device. [Portal.outwood.com](http://Portal.outwood.com)

Over the next two weeks, Year 11 students will complete their mock examinations. This is an important milestone in experiencing how exams will operate and importantly for us to review their performance and target our final weeks of teaching and intervention to their personal needs. There is an overview of the mock exam timetable at the end of this letter, but all students also have their own version, which has been shared with them.

With now only 45 school days until the first whole year group exam, it is vital that we support students in forming good habits that evidence success:

- 100% attendance - as every second of teaching and learning counts
- Punctual arrival to the Academy; on site by 8.15am every day - exams cannot wait
- Absolute focus in every lesson
- Attend targeted after school sessions; they have been designed to fill the gaps students are missing and reinforce topics that students need
- Complete the weekly out of school tasks - Sparx, Science GCSE-Pod, and many more activities across their examined subjects
- Have a revision plan - timetable revision at home as well as the sessions in school; we will support building a revision timetable in school.

We will share with you again an updated personalised after-school timetable (14:30-15:30) for your child. The targeted sessions on this timetable are the sessions that your child's teacher feels are vitally important, and will cover topics they know will make a difference to them personally in the summer, so they are expected to attend. Alongside these targeted sessions students can voluntarily access additional after-school sessions (14:30-15:30) almost every day, in all of their examined subjects.

Students also have access to our online Outwood masterclasses and revision resources at;  
<https://www.outwood.com/revision-masterclasses>

We want all students to have a vision of their next-steps; students have been working with specialist careers advisors looking at their career pathways in applying for 6th form, apprenticeships and college places. We recognise that places are limited in certain areas and we want to ensure your children are well prepared with applications and clear next steps.

For many, a key part of the Year 11 vision is their prom, a rite of passage following their exams and the finale with the year group; coming together to celebrate their hard work. The venue and the date have been set and our student prom committee are busy planning the decor and other arrangements. With this rite of passage comes an agreement that students are rewarded with their prom for their efforts in Year 11, with a set criteria they must meet to be able to attend.

Importantly the prom criteria is set purely upon the qualities and expectations that will support them in forming good habits and being successful in their summer exams. This is detailed in their prom passport, which they will receive next week, which records their progress against the criteria and celebrates their hard work. The prom passport and criteria to attend prom includes:

- Maintain good attendance to school
- Punctuality to school and all lessons
- Behaviour and attitude to learning and social times
- Attendance to targeted sessions- breakfast and lunch clubs, after school enrichment activities and holiday boosters.

Please encourage students to get their enrichment report cards signed.

Students will understandably be nervous over the coming weeks and we want to support, reassure and prepare them the very best that we can. There is a list of key colleagues below for if you need to make contact with the academy at any time by telephone or email. We also plan to invite students, parents and carers into the academy again before the exams to further share revision strategies and answer any questions. We have also further invested in external support for our most vulnerable who may require support with exam stress and deeper pastoral support, please continue to speak to us when you have concerns.

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Ms Chittenden (Head of Department: English)	c.chittenden@city.outwood.com
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It has been a privilege to work with this year group since September and, like you, we're committed to ensuring they can attain their potential, achieve fantastic results in the summer and go on to their chosen next steps.

Like you, we will also continue to be obsessive about checking they're on the right track, with no stone left-untuned, be it completing their weekly Sparx, GCSE-Pod, or attending their after-school boosters, because we know added together it will make a difference in the long-term. And we thank you for your support.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns, and we look forward to celebrating as a community on results day in the summer.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Emily Rosaman  
**Principal**