



Dear Parent/Carer

It has been great to see how positively Year 11 have returned to school this year with the vast majority clearly committed to achieving the very best in their last year at John Spence. Year 11 can be a challenging time for students so we have put in place a range of support that will help your child navigate their way through coursework and exam preparation.

The most important support comes from the classroom teachers who will not only help to prepare students for their exams in terms of subject content and skills, but also by helping them to understand the nature of each exam and the best ways to revise for them. This means that attendance to school this year is critical because every lesson missed is an opportunity lost; in very simple terms that means that a student may not be able to answer a question in the exam in May because they missed a couple of lessons of that subject in October this year. The summer exams start on **11th May** and end on **24th June**. Individual student timetables will be produced in the spring term giving you the exact dates and times for the exams your child will sit during this period.

Outside of lessons we will be offering a range of support sessions before and after school as well as at lunchtime that students are expected to attend. The programme will vary throughout the year, but there will be specific slots for each individual subject at the same time every week. To help make sure we can provide adequate time for all subjects, we will also be using form time for exam support and as the majority of Year 11 form tutors are science teachers, science will be delivered during this time. This has meant that we have needed to make some minor adjustments to form groups so that we can target support effectively. Your child has been informed if this affects them.

Whilst we will be offering a wide range of support we do recognise that Year 11 can cause apprehension for students so we will ensure that we don't overload students and offer them additional support through a mentoring programme. If a student does require additional support to help them deal with the pressures of exams, then we also have exam groups designed to help students cope.

Finally, we will be introducing a Prom Passport to the students. This passport means that their attendance at intervention is recognised and rewarded; full details have been given to the year group today.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jonathan Heath'.

Jonathan Heath
Headteacher



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• F I T F O R L I F E •



Year 11 Support Session Timetable

Day	Morning	Lunchtime	After school
Monday		Engineering (Selected students / From 4 th Nov) Health & Social Care (Selected students / From 4 th Nov) Hospitality & Catering (Selected students / From 4 th Nov) Food Prep & Nutrition (Selected students / From 4 th Nov)	Art (All students / Started)
Tuesday	Form time Science (All students / From 14 th Oct)	ICT (All students / Started)	
Wednesday	Form time Science (All students / From 14 th Oct)	Design Technology (Selected students / From 4 th Nov) Drama (All students / From 14 th Oct) Music (All students / From 14 th Oct) GCSE PE (Selected students / From 4 th Nov)	Maths Y band (All students / From 4 th Nov) English X band (All students / Started)
Thursday		French (Selected students / From 4 th Nov) Spanish (Selected students / From 4 th Nov)	English Y band (All students / Started) Maths X band (All students / From 4 th Nov)
Friday	Geography (8am) (Selected students / From 6 th Jan)	History (Selected students / From 6 th Jan) Ethics (Selected students / From 6 th Jan)	

KEY

Green support sessions are targeted towards either selected (some) / all students studying the subject (those selected will change as the school year progresses)

Yellow some support sessions have already started and others are due to start at the dates suggest

Key Information

- Each subject has been allocated a specific timetable slot (e.g. ICT Tuesday Lunchtime)
- Some subjects may select all students to attend their session (e.g. English). Other subjects may select a smaller group of students and change those selected as the school year progresses
- The number of sessions each subject will deliver will vary (e.g. some subjects delivering a session each week and others a 4 week block of sessions)
- All students will be told in school which subjects / sessions they have been selected for and all parents / carers will be notified by text which subjects / sessions their son / daughter have been selected for

Year 11 Support Programme

Year 11 can be a very challenging year and we will do everything that we can to make it as straightforward as possible for you. Your mentor will help you make sense of the wide range of support that is available and also help you to organise your time effectively.

To help make things easier we have organised our support into a number of different styles - subjects will let you know the content and style of each session before you attend so that you know how it matches your needs and style of learning.

Here are some of the types of support you will receive:

Drop in Clinics

Subjects will offer these sessions throughout the year and are an opportunity for you to speak to a subject teacher about particular concerns you may have.

Form Tutor

Your tutor will let you know which support sessions you are required to attend for each subject as well as guiding you towards other sessions that are suitable for you.

Healthy Mind Sessions

These sessions will run throughout the year and aim to remove some of the stress and concern that you may feel in Year 11.

Academic Monitoring

You will already have met with your mentor at least once. Make sure that you speak to them if you are feeling apprehensive or need help with organising your time. Your mentor will help you to choose which support sessions are right for you.

Homework

Homework will be based around reviewing learning. The nature of this will vary from subject to subject, but you may be reviewing learning that has just taken place or learning that took place much earlier in the course. Where possible support sessions will be scheduled to support the homework programme.

Short Burst Revision

These sessions will only run for a short period of time and are designed to help you tackle specific difficulties that you may have around a topic or skill. The sessions could take place before school, at lunch or after school and will run for a maximum of 4 weeks.

Study Skills

These sessions will run during tutor time and will help you to understand the best ways to review your learning and revise for your exams.

Subject Monitoring

In some cases subjects may feel it is appropriate for you to receive 1 to 1 or small group support in order to overcome some specific barriers that you may have.

Long Term Revision

These sessions will run on a regular day after school and cover key skills and content.