

Dear Parent/Carer

With the Year 11 GCSE exams fast approaching I wanted to take this opportunity to update you regarding our ongoing support for your child as well as some key dates and information for over the coming weeks.

Year 11 support & the importance of independent revision

Prior to all of the morning exams, we are hosting **support sessions** where staff will provide key information / messages and answer any specific questions the students may have. The support sessions are from 8.00-8.35am in the dining hall and a free breakfast will be provided during this time.

As a school we continue to offer **support outside of lesson time** (lunchtimes and after school). The details of this provision have been shared previously however I have included timetables for the next 3 weeks at the bottom of this letter. Please ensure your child makes use of these opportunities being provided.

Arguably the most important factor if your child is to achieve what they are capable of in their GCSE exams is how much work they are doing at home in the form of **revision**. It is vital they build on what is being delivered in school to strengthen their understanding and knowledge of the subject content. Although it is clear a number of students are revising at home for the minimum of 2 hours a school night or 4 hours per day on a weekend or non-school day, we are also concerned that a large number of students aren't doing enough. So we have a really clear picture of this. We have introduced a weekly revision competition whereby every student in Year 11 is expected to provide evidence of something they have done independently in the form of revision. Examples of that this could be:

- A completed revision timetable or plan
- Revision resources produced for a subject or multiple subjects
- Completed past exam papers

The students are expected to respond to a message on their google classroom where they can simply upload a photo of any of the above by the Friday of each week. Or they can show their form tutor their evidence during Friday registration time on their mobile phone. In the following Monday assembly we will reward the best revision examples from the previous week with £30 1st prize, £15 2nd Prize and £5 3rd Prize, so please encourage your child to complete this.

Key Dates / Information

Year 11 students will start their 'study leave' at May half term so their last full day in school will be **Friday 24th May**. Up until this point they will attend their lessons when they don't have an exam. After this point students will be expected to only attend when they have an exam. However there is the opportunity to attend timetabled lessons after May half term if they seek additional support. Staff have been asked to work in their timetabled classrooms and will be on hand to provide support and guidance as required, which is something a number of students in last year's Year 11 found to be both useful and reassuring.

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· F I T F O R L I F E ·



Many Year 11 students are keen to carry out the traditional act of ‘shirt signing’ before they leave us. We will be allowing students to sign shirts after the Chemistry Science exam involving all students on **Tuesday 11th June**. The exam that morning involves all Year 11 students so we will facilitate a short period of time after the exam (between 11-11.15am) for this to happen. We will also be hosting a short assembly on this day at 11.15am to allow the students, some staff and the Year 11 form tutors to come together and acknowledge the time they have spent together.

Finally, to provide staff and students with the opportunity to celebrate the last 5 years at John Spence we will be hosting a **Year 11 Party** at Percy Park Rugby Club on **Thursday 27th June from 7-11pm**. You will notice we have called the event a party rather than a Prom. This is very deliberate and something we have done to take account of the financial impact of the cost of living crisis on many families. In fact, in the past some students have been ‘put off’ from attending the traditional Year 11 Prom as they either can’t afford to buy a new suit or dress, or alternatively don’t feel comfortable wearing these items and therefore choose not to attend. We really want the event to be inclusive and to provide students with the opportunity to celebrate their time with us. Consequently, our Year 11 Party encourages all students to wear what they would for a party and what they feel comfortable in. That’s not to say the students can’t wear a suit or dress, we have simply encouraged them not to buy a new / expensive suit or dress for the event and this has been something we have spoken to the students about regularly over the course of this year.

I hope that makes sense to you and you can support our rationale for this approach. Of course if you do have any questions regarding the dress code for the event we will do our best to answer them.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Best wishes,

James Redpath

Assistant Head teacher

LUNCHTIME & AFTER-SCHOOL SESSIONS BEING PROVIDED BY SCHOOL FOR THE NEXT 3 WEEKS

WEEK 5 - MON 22nd April - FRI 26th April						
WEEK B	LUNCHTIME (1.15-1.55PM)			AFTER-SCHOOL (3-4PM)		
	SUBJECT	ROOM	INFORMATION	SUBJECT	ROOM	INFORMATION
MONDAY (22.4.24)	ENGLISH	U7	Literature	ENGLISH Lang Paper 2	U6	IWH
	Biology	U13/sci off	Biology drop in all	Chemistry RDo	U9	All pupils
	Art	A5/A8	Open rooms - available to all.	Art	A5/A8	Open rooms - available to all.
TUESDAY (23.4.24)	Biology	U13	Biology drop in for all LOw	YEAR 7 PARENTS EVENING		
	Health and Social Care	U10	Lunchtime catch-up session with VCA			
	Art	A5/A8	Open rooms - available to all.			
WEDNESDAY (24.4.24)	MATHS	U17	(JHy - 11X1 only)	Music Tech (KHo)	A3	All Music students
	Chemistry RDo	U9	All pupils	Art	A5/A8	Open rooms - available to all.
	Geography	G13	All pupils	FPN	G3	ALL STUDENTS
	Art	A5/A8	Open rooms - available to all.	ENGLISH 11Y2 AND Y4 AKe	U3	Literature
	Sports Studies	G1	ALL STUDENTS			
THURSDAY (25.4.24)	FPN	G3	ALL STUDENTS			
	Biology	U13	Biology drop in for all LOw	Art	A5/A8	Open rooms - available to all.
	Physics	Sci Prep Rm	All with Mr McKeen	FPN	G3	ALL STUDENTS
	Health and Social Care	U10	Lunchtime catch-up session with VCA			
	MATHS	U19	CMA - 11X3			
FRIDAY (26.4.24)	Art	A5/A8	Open rooms - available to all.			
	FPN	G3	ALL STUDENTS			
	ENGLISH	U8	Literature / Language drop in	Art	A5/A8	Open rooms - available to all.
	Chemistry RDo	U9	All pupils			
	Biology MMg	U14	Biology revision games for all			
	Art	A5/A8	Open rooms - available to all.			
	FPN	G3	ALL STUDENTS			

WEEK 6 - MON 29th April - FRI 3rd May						
WEEK A	LUNCHTIME (1.15-1.55PM)			AFTER-SCHOOL (3-4PM)		
	SUBJECT	ROOM	INFORMATION	SUBJECT	ROOM	INFORMATION
MONDAY (29.4.24)	ENGLISH	U7	Literature	ENGLISH ACC and MAC	U3	AKe
	Art	A5/A8	Open rooms - available to all.	Chemistry RDo	U9	All pupils
				Art	A5/A8	Open rooms - available to all.
TUESDAY (30.4.24)	Health and Social Care	U10	Lunchtime catch-up session with VCA	CURRICULUM LEADER MEETING		
	Art	A5/A8	Open rooms - available to all.			
WEDNESDAY (1.5.24)	MATHS	U17	(JHy - 11X1 only)	Music Tech (KHo)	A3	All Music students
	Sports Studies	G1	ALL STUDENTS	History (LGr)	G8	Interpretations - American West
	Chemistry RDo	U9	All pupils	Art	A5/A8	Open rooms - available to all.
	FPN	G3	ALL STUDENTS	FPN	G3	ALL STUDENTS
			English drop in	Intervention	Q4 (both papers)	All welcome CDE
THURSDAY (2.5.24)	Physics	Sci Prep Rm	All with Mr McKeen	STAFF CPD - EFA		
	Health and Social Care	U10	Lunchtime catch-up session with VCA			
	MATHS	U19	CMA - 11X3			
	Art	A5/A8	Open rooms - available to all.			
	FPN	G3	ALL STUDENTS			
FRIDAY (3.5.24)	ENGLISH	U8	Literature / Langugae drop in	ENGLISH y2 AND y4 AKe	U3	Literature
	Chemistry RDo	U9	All pupils			
	Biology MMg	U14	Biology revision games for all			
	Art	A5/A8	Open rooms - available to all.	Art	A5/A8	Open rooms - available to all.
	FPN	G3	ALL STUDENTS			

WEEK 7 - TUES 7th May - FRI 10th May (GCSE EXAMS START)						
WEEK B	LUNCHTIME (12.15-1PM)			AFTER-SCHOOL (3-4PM)		
	SUBJECT	ROOM	INFORMATION	SUBJECT	ROOM	INFORMATION
MONDAY (6.5.24)	BANK HOLIDAY					
TUESDAY (7.5.24)	Biology	U13	Biology drop in for all LOw	DEPARTMENT MEETING		
	Health and Social Care	U10	Lunchtime catch-up session with VCA			
WEDNESDAY (8.5.24)	MATHS	U17	(JHy - 11X1 only)	Art	A5/A8	Creative Statement - FINAL EXAM TASK
	Chemistry RDo	U9	All pupils	Music Tech (KHo)	A3	All Music students
	Sports Studies	G1	ALL STUDENTS	ENGLISH LIT Y2 / Y4 AKe	U3	Literature
				English Lang Drop in (open to all)	Intervention	Language (question 4 focus on both papers)
THURSDAY (9.5.24) Ethics 1 (AM) Engineering (AM)* Drama (PM)*	Physics	Sci Prep Rm	All with Mr McKeen	Art	A5/A8	Creative Statement - FINAL EXAM TASK
	Health and Social Care	U10	Lunchtime catch-up session with VCA			
	Art	A5/A8	Creative Statement - FINAL EXAM TASK			
				Biology after school run through- ALL		
FRIDAY (10.5.24) Biology 1 (AM)	ENGLISH	U8	Literature / Language drop in	Art	A5/A8	Creative Statement - FINAL EXAM TASK
	Chemistry RDo	U9	All pupils			
	Art	A5/A8	Creative Statement - FINAL EXAM TASK			