

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the end of the term I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you some key updates for the next half-term and beyond.

1. Feedback from Y11 Snapshot 2 exams

- Last week the students took part in their exams and we are pleased to say the students' conduct during the exams was generally excellent.
- It was clear that some students had prepared very well whereas others should have done more. What is crucial now is that the students reflect on this and focus on addressing any gaps in their knowledge that the exams identify (teaching staff will be making this clear in lessons via exam feedback).
- Teaching staff are in the process of marking exam papers then using these outcomes and combining them with other evidence (e.g. classwork, assessments, coursework etc) to decide upon accurate predicted grades for students. These grades will be shared with you after half-term and we will be analysing outcomes for every student to judge what steps need to be taken.

2. Form Time Intervention

- All Year 11 students continue to be part of this programme which provides an additional 75 mins worth of subject input each week (8.35 - 9am every Tues / Wed / Thurs)
- There is strong evidence the input during these sessions consolidates learning and deepens the students' subject knowledge. Students who attend all the sessions and make the most of them often get better outcomes in their GCSE exams.
- Good punctuality to school at the start of the day (8.35am) is key if your child is to make the most of this opportunity. Please can you support the school in ensuring your child attends these sessions on time.
- The students will continue in their current groups for the first 2 weeks of the next half-term. I will then be using the information from the Snapshot 2 exams to inform the next subject groups that will start on Tuesday 20th January.

3. After-School Compulsory Revision Sessions

- Starting on Tuesday 6th Jan 2026 will be our first 'subject wave' of after-school sessions. The subjects involved in each wave and the relevant dates are as follows:

WAVE 1	WAVE 2	WAVE 3
Maths / Art / IMedia / Business / Geography	English / Drama / Spanish / Ethics / Health & Social Care / History / Catering / Food	Science / Music / Design Technology / Engineering / GCSE PE / Sports Studies
Tues 6.1.26 Tues 13.1.26 Tues 20.1.26	Tues 24.2.26 Tues 3.3.26 Tues 10.3.26	Tues 17.3.26 Tues 24.3.26 Tues 31.3.26

Headteacher Mr Jonathan Heath

John Spence Community High School, Preston Road, North Shields, NE29 9PU.

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- The subject groups for wave 1 have already been selected and will be shared with the students on their first day back after the Christmas break (Mon 5th Jan 2026). These groups will run for 3 weeks, we then have a 3-week gap to allow for parents' evening etc. and then waves 2 and 3 run for 6 consecutive weeks. The premise is that your child will get a different subject focus each wave, based on need.
- We class these sessions as being 'compulsory' and we expect every Year 11 student to attend. We are investing a lot of time and effort into these sessions, with every member of staff across the school involved to allow for the sessions to have small group numbers and ultimately have the greatest positive impact on student progress.
- We 'reward' the students for attending and committing to these sessions as well as other revision opportunities provided by subject staff. Students will be provided with a 'hoodie passport' next half-term. Every time they attend a 'compulsory session' or a revision session organised by staff, of over 40 mins, they will receive a stamp on their passport. If they complete the passport they will be rewarded by receiving a free leavers hoodie.
- I would really appreciate it if you could talk to your child about these sessions and reiterate their importance in terms of helping prepare them for their GCSE exams.

3. Year 11 Party

- 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** as is tradition. The event will be taking place at Percy Park Rugby Club from 7-11pm on Thursday 25 June 2026.
- 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 simply encourage them not to buy a new / expensive suit or dress for the event.
- We do however wish to make it clear at this point that we believe attending the Year 11 Party should be a privilege and not a right. It is crucial to us as a school that students behave and conduct themselves in an appropriate manner and that they buy into our 'Fit for Life' ethos. As a result of this we have set 3 criteria that students must meet in their remaining time with us in order to be able to attend the Year 11 Party.
- It is important to note that the students have been afforded this first term as a settling-in period and that the time period the 3 criteria apply to is from Monday 5th Jan 2025 to Thursday 25th June 2026.
- The 3 criteria are:

No more than 3 Behaviour Centre (BC) Referrals	95% or above attendance to school *Any extenuating circumstances will be considered by Mr Crowe / Mr Redpath*	Good Punctuality (morning registration and lessons) *Mr Crowe / Mr Redpath will monitor this aspect and contact students & parents in danger of not achieving these criteria*
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I hope you can appreciate why these criteria have been put in place. We want those students who get it right every day to have an event they deserve and will be proud to be part of. We don't envisage there being many students in Year 11 who don't meet the criteria set out. Nevertheless, we will communicate regularly with you as a parent if your child is struggling to meet our expectations.

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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 any of the updates above please do get in contact.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Best wishes,

J Redpath

James Redpath
Assistant Head teacher

Key Year 11 Dates	
Tues 6th Jan 26	After-School Compulsory Revision Sessions start - WAVE 1 subjects
Tues 20th Jan 26	New Form Time Intervention groups start
Tues 27th Jan 26	Year 11 Parents Evening (you will receive a copy of your child's report 2)
2nd - 13th Feb 26	Year 11 Mock Exams
Wed 18th March 26	Y11 SLT Review Day (15 min appointment) (you will receive a copy of your child's report 3)
Wk Beg 4th May 26	Y11 GCSE Exams start