



22nd September 2022

An Introduction to Year 11

Dear Year 11 Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I would like to thank you for attending the Academic Review Day last week. We believe that strong relationships are built between school and home to enhance your child's chances of success in their GCSE exams this summer. This day was a chance for us to set the scene for the year and to highlight areas of strength and development. Please keep in touch with your child's tutor if you have any questions about anything to do with the year ahead.

This letter aims to give you an insight into Year 11, highlighting key information that will support and prepare your child for their exams.

Attendance

The Academic Review Day was also a chance to highlight the importance of your child's attendance at school. Statistics from our latest set of GCSE results show that when a student's attendance was above 95%, they averaged a grade 5 across their GCSEs. Please continue to emphasise the importance of attending school, especially during those dark, cold days in December.

If your child is absent from school, either through illness or other circumstances, there are several ways that they can keep up with the work they will miss.

1. Log into either Seneca or Sparx to complete exercises relating to the topic that they will be missing
2. Check Microsoft Teams to see whether work has been uploaded
3. Email the teachers to ask for the work that they will be missing
4. Continue with revising other topics within the subjects that will be missed
5. Check the school website for more information on revision materials.

Mock Exams

In preparation for the GCSE exams in the Summer, Year 11 students will complete two sets of mock exams. One set will occur at the end of October/beginning of November, and the second set will occur at the end of February/beginning of March. We will be mirroring the summer exam schedule for the second set of mock exams to ensure they get a full practice in preparation for the GCSE exams.

Mock exams 1

Week commencing 17th October- Option subject exams

Tuesday 1st- Friday 11th November- English and Maths Mock exams

Mock exams 2

Monday 6th February- Friday 3rd March.





Intervention sessions

Throughout the next nine months, we will provide year 11 students with various opportunities to further support their revision for the GCSE exams next summer. There will be opportunities for students to participate in after-school revision sessions in various subjects and during the half-term breaks. Further details regarding after-school intervention sessions will be communicated to students and parents.

Revision

With only six weeks until the first set of mock exams, it is vitally important that your child takes part in regular revision throughout the week. It is suggested that 2 hours of revision a day will give your child a better chance of achieving a grade 4 or above in the summer exams. Please support them with creating a revision timetable to plan what subjects and topics they need to work on. Please encourage them to use Seneca and Sparx, ensure that they have revision guides for each subject and reiterate the importance of taking breaks during their revision sessions.

College Applications

The grades your child receives in their GCSE exams will determine the level, of course, they can study at college next year. The higher the grades, the more opportunities they will have. A levels, Level 3 BTECs or opportunities to move quickly from a Level 2 onto paid work from a skills-based course such as hairdressing or plumbing. Once the first set of mock exams is completed, we will be turning their attention to completing their applications. Year 11 students will take part in a Careers Fair on Friday 7th October, and following this; they will have an opportunity to receive further career guidance. Students will start the application process during tutor times and will be expected to finish these at home. There is an expectation that all students complete two applications, which must be completed by Friday, 16th December.

GCSE Summer Exams

The **GCSE summer exam season starts on Monday 15th May**, and the **last exam** will be **approximately the 23rd of June (this is still to be confirmed)**. We will send more details closer to the time, but this is only about 30 weeks away.

If you have any questions, please contact either me at g.morris@arkalexandra.org or Mrs Gill (Head of Year 11) at a.gill@arkalexandra.org

Regards,

Mr G Morris
Leader of Careers, Destinations and Year 11 Outcomes

