

Dear Parents & Carers

Year 11 - The Year Ahead

As we have completed our first few weeks of Year 11, I thought it would be helpful to give you a brief overview of our programme for the year ahead along with some key dates.

As you may know, the previous Year 11 group of students left SBL with really pleasing examination results and a large number have remained with us for post 16 study. We are delighted for them and have every expectation that we will be able to do the same for your daughter and/or son.

As you begin to plan ahead, we hope to see you at our forthcoming **SBL Post-16 Open Evening on Wednesday 9th October at 6.15pm**. Here you will be able to find out about our Post 16 (Sixth Form) and the courses available to all students.

At this point in term 1, students are building towards our week of practice (mock) exams which will begin on **Monday 11th November**. A precise timetable will follow nearer the event. The results of these examinations will be provided before the Christmas holiday to give you and your child time to understand the progress that has been made up to now and work on the areas to improve when we come back in January 2020.

In advance of these practice exams, you may wish to come to our special advice evening "*Parents' briefing on revision and preparation for exams*" which will take place on the same evening as our Post 16 Open Evening on **Wednesday 9th October at 5.30pm**.

In order to keep you fully updated on progress with studies, we will be sending home reports to you which will tell you the grades we are predicting for your son or daughter in the summer exams. Please look out for these reports around the following dates:

Report 1	Mid October 2019
Report 2	Mid December 2019
Report 3	Mid February 2020
Report 4	End of March 2020

In order to secure the best possible grades, you will notice the increased amount of homework being set for your child on our Insight portal. Completing this "Home Study" activity is a crucial part of the independent learning necessary to succeed in the examinations that will take place in the summer term.

In terms of careers guidance, we will follow on from our Industry Day in Year Ten with Work Experience and our "*World of Work Day*" in November. Students will benefit from guest speakers, workshops and mock interviews in order to give students the information they need at this point. To complement this, we have a weekly slot in our tutor programme where tutors will work with students to better understand the options available post 16. If you want to take advantage of meeting an Independent Careers advisor, please do speak with Ms Murray in our exams office.

Later in the year, students will have another opportunity to take additional practice exams in many of their subjects (including English, Maths and Science). These exams will begin on **Monday 2nd March 2020**.

The majority of the external summer exams will begin in late April and Early May and will finish in late June. Students will be expected to attend school fully until the end of term 5. In term 6, some study leave is granted, but this will depend on the examination timetable. We do know that students need to be available for exams until 24th June 2020.

Whilst rest and family time are important parts of holiday time, it is vital that revision and independent learning at home also has a prominent part to play in holiday times during Year 11. We encourage students to take a balanced approach to work, rest and play but it is important also to make sacrifices if students want to secure excellent grades to take into the rest of their lives. While we want the students to be ambitious, work hard and to aspire to post 16 study, apprenticeships, university and the world of work, it is very important that your children feel able to talk to their parents and teachers about the challenges ahead and also that they have a clear sense how they will get there. Please do speak with your daughter or son when the opportunity presents itself.

Hopefully, you will feel that you have our support as parents and carers and that you will feel welcome to approach us at SBL if you feel that we can help or guide you. Please do contact your daughter or son's Head of House if you feel that we can assist you further.

With every best wish for the year ahead,

Yours faithfully



S A White
Vice Principal

Summary of Key Dates for Year 11	
Parents' briefing: "Revision and Preparation for Exams"	Wed 9 th October, starting at 5.30pm
SBL Post-16 Open Evening	Wed 9 th October, starting at 6.15pm
Report (1) to parents/carers	w/c 21 st October 2019
Practice (mock) exams	w/c Monday 11 th November
World of work Day (Careers)	Mon 25 th Nov 2019
Work Experience	Tues 26 th – Fri 29 th Nov
Report (2) to parents/carers	w/c 16 th December 2019
Report (3) to parents/carers	w/c 10 th February 2020
Practice (mock) exams	w/c Monday 2 th March 2020
Report (4) to parents/carers	w/c 30 th March 2020
External summer examinations begin	Late April (to be confirmed)