

**October 2018**

## **Year 11 - The Year Ahead**

As we have completed our first month 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.

It was wonderful to see so many parents at the recent post-16 information evening. Following from this very well attended event, the SBL Post-16 Open Evening takes place on the 11<sup>th</sup> October, starting at 6pm. Here you will be able to find out about our Post 16 (Sixth Form) and the courses available to all students across our Trust.

At this point in term 1, students are building towards our week of practice (mock) exams which will begin on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> 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 2019.

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 Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at 6pm.

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 in the following dates this year:

<b>Report 1</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> October 2018</b>
<b>Report 2</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> December 2018</b>
<b>Report 3</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> February 2019</b>
<b>Report 4</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup> March 2019</b>

In order to secure the best grades possible, you will have noticed 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 work experience and our Industry Day in Year Ten with 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 Mr Rees.

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 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019**.

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.

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 we can assist you further.

With every best wish for the year ahead,

Yours faithfully



S A White  
Vice Principal

<b>Summary of Key Dates for Year 11</b>	
<b>SBL Post-16 Open Evening</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> October, starting at 6pm,</b>
<b>Report (1) to parents/carers</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> October 2018</b>
<b>Parents' briefing: "Revision and Preparation for Exams"</b>	<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at 6pm.</b>
<b>World of work Day (Careers)</b>	<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018</b>
<b>Practice (mock) exams</b>	<b>w/c Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November</b>
<b>Report (2) to parents/carers</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> December 2018</b>
<b>Report (3) to parents/carers</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> February 2019</b>
<b>Parents' briefing: "Final Preparation"</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at 6pm</b>
<b>Practice (mock) exams</b>	<b>w/c Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019</b>
<b>Report (4) to parents/carers</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup> March 2019</b>
<b>External summer examinations begin</b>	<b>Late April (to be confirmed)</b>