



Date, 9th October 2026

Dear Year 11 Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that we are now well into the second calendar month of Year 11 – and in just two weeks we will be at half term. I spoke to the students earlier this week about how quickly all the milestones roll around in Year 11 – although the days in school working hard may sometimes feel long, the weeks will fly by. Students must continue to work hard both in and out of school to ensure that they don't waste any precious time in this crucial final year because it will go so quickly. Every moment really does matter in Year 11. With this in mind, this newsletter features information about important Year 11 milestones just around the corner.



On Thursday 22nd October, Year 11 First Push Evening will take place at the academy from 5:30pm-6:30pm. It is important that we have all students at this event, and we urge encourage them to bring an adult with them. The students will be given their mock exam timetables, as well as a variety of stationery and materials to help them best revise over half term. There will also be a talk in our theatre from Mrs Barker, Mr Gill and I regarding how the school and parents/guardians can best work together to support students through their mocks, and the remainder of this academic year.

The first set of mocks this year run from Thursday 5th November through to Thursday 19th November. It is vital that students are in school, on time, every day during this mock window and your support with this is hugely appreciated. We will run the mock window so that it feels as close to the real GCSEs as possible – we will host breakfast revision sessions in the mornings to get students' brains warmed up, and we will have additional revision classes on after school for students to do some last minute revision with teachers. The mock exams are very important for showing us where knowledge gaps exist for students so please ensure that students only miss school in exceptional circumstances during this time.

Finally, local colleges have now opened their applications – please prompt your Year 11 students to start making applications for their next steps. We have been visited by local colleges recently in assemblies and all of them have promised students that the best way of knowing which college is best for you is to visit them, so I have included dates of Open Evenings at the end of this letter. As always, if your child needs any support with making an application for college, Ms Abbott is available to help them. Ms Abbott is in the Year 11 Common Room every breaktime and is always happy to offer careers or college application advice.

Kind regards
Mrs Tribe



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Spotlight on Maths

As I'm sure you're aware, GCSE Maths is one of the most important qualifications students will achieve, as it is a key requirement for college courses, apprenticeships and future career opportunities.

Success in GCSE Mathematics comes from consistent effort over time rather than last-minute revision. Students who make the most progress are those who practise regularly, complete homework carefully and learn from their mistakes.

With that in mind, I would like to recognise the positive start our Year 11 students have made in Maths. Many have demonstrated a mature attitude to learning, engaging well in lessons and working hard to develop their mathematical understanding. I am confident these qualities will support their success throughout the year.

To further support students in their preparation for GCSE Mathematics, including their upcoming mock exams in November, we are running a weekly revision session every Wednesday morning from 7:45am to 8:15am. These sessions provide an excellent opportunity for students to revisit key topics, practise examination-style questions and seek help with areas they may find challenging. All Year 11 students are welcome to attend, and we encourage them to make the most of this additional support.

Students are also receiving weekly homework through Sparx Maths, alongside a paper-based exam paper. It has been particularly encouraging to see that most students are completing both assignments each week. The combination of online and paper-based tasks helps students develop both their procedural skills and problem-solving abilities. As the year progresses, we will be in touch with more ways we will be using Sparx Maths to support revision.

Thank you for your continued support at home. Encouraging good study habits, discussing learning and helping students to persevere with challenging topics can make a significant difference to their confidence and progress. If there is anything you would like to discuss regarding your child's learning in Mathematics, please feel free to get in touch.

All the best,
Mr Lee



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Dates for diary

Monday 12th October & Wednesday 14th October – English and Maths Walking Talking Mocks Periods 1 & 2

Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th October 4:30-7:30pm Open Evening for COPC - Highbury, North Harbour and Sixth Form

Wednesday 14th October 4:45-7:30pm UTC Open Evening

Thursday 15th October 5-7pm SHCG Open Evening - Fareham

Thursday 22nd October – Year 11 First Push Evening

Saturday 7th November Sparsholt Open Day- MUST BOOK A SLOT

Monday 30th November - Dance and Drama Exam Showcase 6pm - ticket information will be out soon

Tuesday 10th November SHCG Open Evening - CEMAST and CETC 5-7pm

Celebrating Success

Taylor H – for excellent focus and concentration in English lessons and for proactively seeking advice on how to improve your work.

Eva S - for her fantastic support with the production and for taking initiative to catch up on missed work in Music to ensure she is up to speed with her coursework.

Jennifer H- for making such a strong start to component one portfolio and producing some excellent Artist research.

Sandra B - focused, motivated to do well and just basically fab in Media.

Liam S – For always having a fantastic attitude to learning in all subjects.

Tyler Lee W – For all the extra time and commitment you are giving subjects outside of lesson time (particularly Art!)



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