

Our Ref: CFO/JRH

11th September 2025

Dear Parent / Carer

As your child approaches the final stage of their GCSE journey, we would like to share with you the key support in place to help them achieve their very best. This letter introduces our Raising Standards Team, who are dedicated to ensuring strong progress and attainment across Year 11. It also outlines details of our form time and Period 6 intervention programme, designed to provide targeted support beyond the school day, as well as important upcoming dates and events to help you and your child plan ahead.

Raising Standards Team

At our school, we are proud to have a dedicated Raising Standards Team whose core purpose is to support every Year 11 student in reaching their full potential. This team works closely with students, parent/carers, and staff to raise attainment and ensure strong progress across all subjects. Each member of the team brings their own expertise and focus, from monitoring academic performance and providing targeted interventions, to offering guidance on study skills, wellbeing, and future pathways. Together, their collective aim is to equip students with the tools, confidence, and motivation they need to succeed in their GCSEs and beyond.

Mr Fox – Raising Standards Lead for KS4

Mr Fox oversees the whole-school strategies designed to maximise progress and attainment for all Key Stage 4 students. He works closely with Heads of Department to ensure that every subject is challenging students appropriately, identifying where additional support or stretch is needed. His role is to make sure that Year 11 students are consistently pushed to achieve their very best across the curriculum.

Mr Walshaw – Student Support Officer for Year 11

Mr Walshaw is responsible for ensuring that all Year 11 students are fully supported throughout this crucial stage of their education. He works closely with staff, parent/carers, and students to maintain high standards of progress and wellbeing. A key part of his role is supporting teachers by ensuring that targeted students attend intervention sessions, so they can access the additional guidance and practice needed to succeed.

Miss Kitchen – Head of English

Miss Kitchen leads the English department with a clear focus on raising attainment in Year 11. She ensures that Teaching and Learning in English challenge every student to achieve their full potential and works closely with the Raising Standards Team to put targeted interventions in place. Her role is to make sure students are well-prepared and confident to secure strong outcomes in their English GCSEs.

Mr Bagnall – Head of Maths

Mr Bagnall leads the Maths department with a strong focus on raising attainment in Year 11. He ensures lessons provide the right level of challenge and support so that every student can make excellent progress in Maths. Working closely with the Raising Standards Team, he oversees targeted interventions to address gaps in knowledge and to prepare students thoroughly for success in their GCSE Maths exams.

Intervention

Form Time

From 15th September, Year 11 students will be placed into new form groups based on their English and Maths needs, identified through their end of Year 10 exam results. This approach allows us to provide targeted intervention during form time, ensuring that students receive dedicated support in the areas that will have the biggest impact on their overall attainment. These sessions are designed to strengthen key skills, boost confidence, and help students secure the best possible outcomes in their English and Maths GCSEs.

Period 6 Intervention

As part of our commitment to raising attainment, Year 11 students will also take part in Period 6 intervention sessions, which run after school. These sessions focus on the core subjects, with Science on a Monday, English on a Wednesday, and Maths on a Thursday. While all students are welcome to attend, in order to strengthen their knowledge and skills, for some students attendance will be a requirement to ensure they achieve the grades needed to access their chosen post-16 courses. Mr Walshaw will be closely monitoring attendance at these sessions and will contact parents where required to ensure students are making the most of this vital support.

Future Events and Key Dates

Information Evening

We are pleased to invite you and your child to a **Year 11 Information Evening on Thursday, 9th October 2025**. This event is designed to provide both students and parents with essential exam information, including details of exam boards, paper formats, and assessment requirements. You will also receive guidance on effective revision strategies, and subject leaders will be available to discuss any questions or concerns you may have. This is a valuable opportunity to gain a clear understanding of what is required for success in Year 11 and to ensure your child is fully prepared for their GCSEs.

Mock Exams

The Year 11 mock exams will begin in the week commencing 3rd November 2025, forming part of our new “10-10-10” strategy: 10 weeks of focused teaching, followed by mock exams, then another 10 weeks of teaching and mocks, culminating in the final 10 weeks leading up to the GCSE exams. Following the mocks, there will be a Mock Results Day (date to be confirmed), when students will receive their results and have the opportunity to discuss any concerns directly with subject leaders, who will also be present. We highly recommend that parent/carers attend this event, as it provides a valuable opportunity to understand progress and support their child in planning the next steps towards exam success.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any queries or concerns regarding this.

Yours sincerely

C Fox

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