



July 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

As we end another academic year and get ready to start arguably the most important year of your child's school life, I thought it would be pertinent to write to you. In previous years my end of year communication would have reiterated expectations around behaviour and uniform, but in Year 11 this should be a given. The students need to understand that during the next year we should be focusing purely on attainment and progress; any behaviour that does not befit a Year 11 student striving to succeed in their GCSEs at this point would be detrimental to this.

I was extremely proud of the conduct of our year group during our mock exams and they showed a level of pride and maturity that I had not seen from them before. The resilience portrayed during the two week period was monumental, with exams coming thick and fast. The examinations were robust and have given students clear areas that they need to revise over the summer to prepare themselves for the next set of mocks in November.

The November mocks are the most important set of mocks for the students as they will be the grades that post 16 destinations will see and use to make their decisions as to whether to offer places in Sixth Form, college or for an apprenticeship. There will need to be a level of progress made that shows any potential destination the hard work that our students have put in between the two sets of mocks. To assist this, your child's subjects will have set targeted summer tasks to be completed during the break. In maths for example, students have been asked to engage with a series of workbooks available through Sparx maths, whilst in English they have been set revision resources to give them a head start ahead of the November mocks.

The need to work together as a team around our young people to make sure they are completing learning independently and revising effectively at home will be fundamental to your child's success next year. This is something which starts this summer given the summer tasks described previously. To further support achieving effective independent learning there will be a Year 11 Learning@ Heanor Gate evening on Tuesday 12 September 2023 6-7pm which we request your attendance at.

After the first three weeks back in school, where students will be expected to settle back into their learning, we will then start to look at our after-school intervention programme in the lead up to the mock exams. Please keep this in mind when booking appointments or similar. I know a lot of our students will have part time jobs, private tutors, external clubs and help with younger siblings so please support our students by helping them plan their time throughout the course of Year 11.

I am also extremely pleased to inform you all that Mrs Coleman has joined our year group team as Assistant Achievement Leader, taking over from Mr Stone. Mrs Coleman has supported previous Year 11 cohorts that have gone on to obtain excellent GCSE results. Mr Graham will also be our SLT link and will be leading on a lot of our key events throughout the year.

Over the course of the next academic year you will receive regular newsletters from myself which will include a variety of key information and dates along with messages from SLT and teaching staff when necessary. It will help us count down to that first exam on Thursday 9 May 2024, which gives us 138 invaluable days of learning in school.



This summer break will be different to previous years, in that your child will need to strike a balance between having a deserved break but also engaging with high quality revision over the course of the six weeks, utilising the resources available on our Google classroom.

I wish you a restful summer break and look forward to seeing your child in September.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Bentley'.

Mr D Bentley
Achievement Leader - Year 10