



2 October 2020

Dear Year 11 Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you to introduce myself and outline some important information for Year 11. I will be working closely with Year 11 throughout the year, with a focus on supporting their academic progress.

It has been fantastic to see many in Year 11 settling into the new routines at school exceptionally well, with a desire to be back in the classroom focusing on their learning. This year, independent study will be particularly important in ensuring that students are able to make significant progress.

Independent Study

We have spoken to students about the importance of having a revision timetable and starting their independent revision now. At this stage, we would expect students to complete two or three twenty minute revision sessions five times a week in addition to their homework. It is really important that students do not spend any longer than 20-25 minutes on one subject, instead taking a quick break before revisiting a different subject. This helps them to maintain focus during their revision. We have started to teach students some of the most effective revision techniques and will continue to do so as we move through the year. Below are some of the key tips that we have shared with students:

Just reading or highlighting material does not work particularly well. Instead:

- Start with the most challenging topics and revisit these frequently;
- Self-quiz regularly. Students should routinely test themselves and there are some fantastic online platforms which will support this, including Seneca and Hegarty Maths. Students can also create and use flashcards or answer exam questions;
- Revision should be spaced. Students should revisit topics regularly over time;
- A quiet space without distractions is crucial.

How can you help at home?

- Support your child in finding a quiet space at home to complete homework and revise without distractions such as phones, consoles and TVs
- Agree an independent study routine with your child. For example, will they work immediately when they come home or will they have a break first? It is important that students have time away from their studies, which day will this be and what will this look like?
- Talk to your child about their learning. What are they enjoying? What are they finding difficult and what can we do to further support them?
- Ensure students have an appropriate sleep routine
- Quiz your child on the different topics that they are revising.

Mock Exams

We intend for Year 11 students to complete three sets of mock examinations this academic year as outlined below:

16 November - 11 December

8 February - 12 March

19 April - 14 May

These will not be taking place in the hall, instead occurring during lesson time in the classroom. These mocks are designed to give teachers a clear overview of where students currently are in their learning and what we can do to further support them. We await final confirmation of the GCSE exam dates and will keep you informed. Please be aware that it is possible GCSE exams will take place in July next year and students must be present for these exams.

Post 16

We will be sharing information shortly with students regarding their options at Post-16 and the application processes involved. On the whole, we would expect students to submit applications for their post-16 choices before the Christmas holiday.

In the coming weeks, Year 11 students will be formally introduced to St Katherine's Sixth Form, and given an insight into the opportunities available to them here. This will be followed up by our virtual Open Evening on 19 November, where parents and students will be able to discuss their options with teachers and pastoral staff.

At St Katherine's, we have a small, community-focused Sixth Form which allows students to flourish both inside and outside the classroom. We offer a wide range of course options which cater for all students and future pathways, from traditional academic routes to more work-based, vocational options, all taught to an exceptional standard by our experienced Sixth Form teachers. Equally, our dedicated post-16 tutorial team offer excellent pastoral care, from delivering study skills sessions designed to prepare students for Key Stage 5 study, to supporting our young people in achieving their desired post-18 pathways, be that University, apprenticeship or working life.

We hope that St Katherine's Sixth Form can be the first choice destination for our Year 11 students. Please visit the Sixth Form section of the St Katherine's website, or contact Mr Davies on daviesg2@skdrive.org with any further questions.

Please do not hesitate to get in contact if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

Kate Richards

Kate Richards
Deputy Headteacher