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18th January 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope your child(ren) has had a positive and settled return to school following the Christmas break. Having only started at John Ferneley College in January, I have been impressed with their maturity and desire to succeed.

I wanted to make contact to provide several updates and pieces of key information that will help you support your child(ren) this year.

Supporting Success Timetable – after school sessions

The timetable has been updated for the new term and we are proud of the extensive after school offer for Year 11 students. Supporting Success provides students with an opportunity to:

- Consolidate their classroom learning and build further confidence
- Fill identified gaps in knowledge
- Complete and improve coursework elements of subjects
- Attend targeted sessions to support the move from one specific grade to the next

Please continue to encourage your child(ren) to attend the sessions, especially in subjects where they may not yet be working at their target grade, or they have received a specific invite. You can find a copy of the timetable here > [Supporting Success Timetable](#)

Government update to schools on the Summer GCSE exams – 7th February 2022

Year 11 students will be sitting their exams this Summer. This continues to be the loud and clear message from the Department for Education. Amendments to the exam structure in some subjects have already been published and shared, some examples are:

- Formulae being provided in science
- The poetry section removed from English Literature
- The formal art exam not taking place with grades being determined through the coursework elements

The DfE will be providing schools with an update on this on 7th February 2022. Once we have received and considered the guidance, I will communicate the relevant aspects to you as quickly as possible.

Mock exams – starting W/B 21st February 2022

The second round of mock exams begin after the February half term break, from Monday 21st February. These are to help students prepare for their summer exams and will provide students with an excellent opportunity to identify what they do and don't know in their subjects, alongside a benchmark of their progress to date.

Please see overleaf ...

The DfE have provided schools with guidance on how these must be administered in the, hopefully unlikely, case that students will need a 'Teacher Assessed Grade' providing instead of sitting their exams. This is part of the DfE contingency planning if the exams do get affected by COVID-19. The guidance includes:

- Mock exams are to be carried following the same rules and regulations as the summer exams to ensure the outcomes produced can be used to produce 'Teacher Assessed Grades' if they are deemed required
- Any examples of examination malpractice (potentially cheating) need to be reported to the exam boards. This has never been requested before and includes things such as taking electronic devices into exams, any communication in the exam hall (this could be both talking and/or making any gestures without speaking) and taking a wristwatch into the exam (which is no longer allowed).

The mock exams are clearly important so please continue to support and encourage your child(ren) to prepare as much as they can.

Year 11 Supporting Success Evening – Planned for 27th January 2022 - 5.30pm - 6.30pm

As the DfE announcement is due on Monday 7th February, as well as trying to minimise COVID-19 risk by avoiding large gatherings, we have made the decision to **postpone the second Supporting Success evening which was scheduled for Thursday 27th January**. The session, if required, will be rearranged following the mock exams.

Instead, we will host some **bookable face-to-face appointments on Thursday 27th January 2022** to ensure anyone who may have been planning to ask some specific questions at the Supporting Success event get the opportunity to do so. Appointments can be booked between 5.00pm and 6.00pm with Mr Amlie, for mainly pastoral questions, or myself, for mainly subject or academic based questions. If the demand for appointments is greater than those available, we will find time to accommodate the additional requests. The deadline to make appointments is **Monday 24th January at 3pm**, and appointments can be booked using the following form > [Booking Form](#).

The material covered in the first session, which took place on Thursday 28th October 2021, continues to be the most important thing for Year 11 students:

- Students should be revising as much as they can in preparation for mock exams and, subsequently, summer exams
- Parents/Guardians supporting their child(ren) to revise

The presentation from October can be found [here](#) if you would like a reminder around the ideas suggested.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries and thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

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