



Be inspired and achieve together

09 September 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: Year 11 - Half Term 1

As we begin year 11, we all know how important this year is for our students, this is a time when we want to ensure they remain focussed on their learning to achieve the best results they can. By all of us working together we can ensure the best possible outcomes, both in examinations but also in effective plans to continue their education or training after Year 11. This letter is to update you on the first half term of year 11 including expected standards for the year group, the parent forum, mock interviews and Prom criteria.

Expectations

Attendance & Punctuality – We made a great start last week with attendance and punctuality, thank you for your support with this. We expect all students to arrive into school by 8.30am, to ensure they are at their tutor room on time, for an 8.35am start. In year 11, tutor time is very important as a source of information regarding the exams, how to revise and how to deal with some of the feelings and emotions that occur in the lead up to GCSEs. In terms of attendance, we strive for at least 96% attendance for all students (which equates to less than 6 days of absence during the whole year). In year 11 we don't just send students home when they are feeling ill, we encourage them to remain in school accessing their learning. We understand that students do sometimes need to come home and therefore we will be in touch. We do allow students to bring in paracetamol and to take this – we ask that you have a conversation about taking medication safely. We are happy to store this in PSU, if needed.

Behaviour – As a senior year group, we expect year 11 students to model the behaviours we want to see from all students both in lessons and around school, consistently showing respect. This positive behaviour will see them rewarded as individuals and as a collective in their tutor group. If we experience any behaviours which are a cause for concern, we will be in touch with you.

Mobile Phones – these should not be seen, heard or used in school. They are simply confiscated if this occurs and returned at the end of the day. As we came to the end of year 10 more of the year group were seen to have an issue with this expectation which resulted in them being removed from lessons, this is not something we expect to see during year 11. Please could you remind your child of this expectation. If they need to contact home, they should do so by coming to PSU. If a mobile phone is seen at the end of the day, before leaving the site, your son/daughter's name will be taken and a C3 detention will be issued.

Parent Forum

This year we will be running several parent forums to support you and your child in terms of preparation for their exams – this will include how to revise effectively and how to create a revision timetable and manage revision effectively. We will be in touch with dates and outlines of sessions in the coming weeks.

Arnold Hill Academy is part of the Spencer Academies Trust

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Year 11 Interview Skills Days

Before we break up for the October half term, all year 11 students will have a mock interview from an employer. We work with Gedling Borough Council and local businesses to provide our students with this fantastic opportunity. We will be working on this during tutor time to ensure students are fully prepared for this.

The Year 11 Prom 2019

This is a fantastic celebration event, which the whole year group can attend and we would like to see everyone gain their invite to this. The Prom will be held on Friday 26th June 2020 at Goosedale. The way students gain their invite is by following the Arnold Hill Way and consistently showing respect for the Academy, for others and for learning – this means striving to gain at least 200 achievement points, less than 70 behaviour points, 0 exclusions, no more than 1 isolation and at least 96% attendance. Wildcards will be issued to certain individuals, as we understand for some, there are individual circumstances which mean they may not quite meet this criteria – such as a known medical condition. Students will get weekly updates during tutor as to how they are progressing to gain their invite. Invites will come out after February half-term, but we reserve the right to exclude anyone from the Prom if their behaviour gives us cause for concern.

Should you have any questions or queries please contact your child's tutor in the first instance. Alternatively, Miss Barratt (Mon & Tues only) Miss Hallam (Weds-Fri) or I can be contacted, and we will aim to get back to you within 48 hours.

Thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. L. Garrad". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'G' at the end.

Miss S Garrad
Head of Year 11 & Assistant Head Teacher