

21 September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Following the homework letter sent last Friday, I would like to take this opportunity to share with you further details about our carefully considered curriculum plans and developments in order to continue to support our Year 11 students and accelerate their progress.

As you may be aware, our subject teams and teachers are working hard to adapt their curriculum plans to reflect exam board adjustments to assessment requirements following the periods of the national lockdown. Further details about assessed content are due to be confirmed by Ofqual in partnership with the Department for Education following a recent period of consultation on proposed changes in 2022 and, once published, this information will be shared accordingly.

Furthermore, teachers have been providing structured opportunities in lesson time to revisit the home learning curriculum, regularly checking student understanding, particularly through questioning; identifying and responding to any misconceptions, and planning retrieval practice activities to build on students' recall and working memory, including low-stakes quizzing.

In November (1st – 19th), there will be a series of timetabled mock exams taking place to assess students' progress and to identify further specific areas for development, tailored to meet the needs of individual students and classes. Further details, including a timetable, will be shared in the coming weeks.

As you may know, for our previous Year 11 cohort, in-school, high controlled assessments helped to provide evidence towards their teacher assessed grades for their summer 2021 GCSE awards. As far as schools have been made aware, examinations are expected to take place next summer as normal. However, if the national context was to change due to the continuing pandemic, it is important to be mindful of the importance of all assessments undertaken in school throughout this academic year and how they potentially could be used.

To further support our students, I am pleased to announce that we will be launching a targeted Year 11 after school study support programme that will commence from Monday 27th September. This will run from 3.15pm-4.15pm. Students have been informed about this study support programme and the upcoming assessments in assembly today.

The schedule is as follows:

	Mon A	Tues A	Wed A	Thurs A	Mon B	Tues B	Wed B	Thurs B
Core		Maths	Science	English		Maths	Science	English
Options		Group 1	Group 2	Group 3		Group 1	Group 2	Group 3

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Option subjects are grouped in the following ways:

- Group 1 each Tuesday – Timber, Catering, Geography
- Group 2 each Wednesday – Art, History
- Group 3 each Thursday – Child Development, Spanish, Film Studies, Computer Science

There is flexibility on a Friday for subject areas to offer a further session where there is a specific need, such as for students who need to complete coursework.

This is a targeted programme with a specific focus for each session where teachers will be working with students in small groups. This is an invaluable opportunity for intense teacher-input to help to close any gaps. Students who have been identified will receive a personalised invite, although other students are welcome to attend as they prepare for their November mock exams. Students are expected to attend where they have been identified and it may not be the case that they will be expected to attend every session – this will depend on their individual needs.

Parents will be informed via text message with a minimum of 24 hours' notice where their child is expected to attend a specific session. If a student is expected and does not attend, for safeguarding purposes parents will be informed. It is important that your child is committed to attend and participate given that this focused session will help to enhance and boost progress. With regret, we are unable to offer transport home after these sessions, so it is important that parents/ carers make transport arrangements in advance of the sessions.

In addition, the library is open every day during school at lunchtime and at the end of the day until 4pm. Year 11 students are very welcome to use this quiet space to support their study. Computers are available if they wish to use them to assist their independent private study.

I hope that you do find these resources and information of benefit. If I can be of any further help or if you have any questions, please do contact me via Melissa.lock@hayleacademy.net

Thank you for your staunch support and continued partnership; it is very much appreciated.

Yours faithfully

Melissa Lock

Mrs Melissa Lock
Deputy Headteacher