

Message from the Year 11 Team

Welcome to the first Year 11 Bulletin of the Academic year.

Teachers of Year 11 would like to say a massive well done to the vast majority of the year group for showing amazing resilience and dedication upon their return to the Academy from September. If it has been said once, it has been said many a time, it is still an uncertain time but our main message to all Year 11 students is that we must continue to be consistent, resilient and organised.

This term, Year 11 have started a, learn to learn Curriculum to help prepare themselves for their upcoming Progress exams in December (all key dates below).

Below is the latest announcement from the DfE on external examinations in England.

“Students now have more time to prepare for their exams next year, as most AS, A levels and GCSEs will be held 3 weeks later to help address the disruption caused by the pandemic.

The Prime Minister and Education Secretary are clear that exams will go ahead, as they are the fairest and most accurate way to measure a pupil’s attainment.

Today (12 October), the government is announcing the summer exam series will start on **7th June** and end on **2 July** for almost all AS and A levels and GCSEs. Results day will be **Friday 27th August** for GCSEs so students will start the following academic year as normal.

The government continues to prioritise children’s education in its response to the pandemic, building on the remarkable efforts of teachers, students and parents in keeping pupils learning at school and at home.

Miss Neary and Mrs Conway

Key Dates

Student engagement workshops

Time management workshops (Elevate education) – Fri 16th & Thursday 22nd October. Both during P5 lessons for selected students

Ace that exam workshops (Elevate education) – Fri 6th & Thursday 12th November. Both during P5 lessons for selected students

Study Skills workshop (GM Higher) – 4th December (P5)

Parental webinars

Exam preparation – 10th November at 6pm

Stress and Wellbeing – 1st December at 6pm

Internal examinations

Dec Progress Exams – Week commencing 7th & 14th December

April Progress Exams – Week commencing 19th April

External Exams

Travel & Tourism - Friday 8th January—AM

Creative iMedia —Mon 11th January - PM

Summer examinations: Monday 7th June – Friday 2nd July 2021

Leadership

Head Boy and Head Girl update

The application process is now closed and interviews will be taking place next week to select our new appointments, along with their deputies.

Independent Learning - Microsoft Teams, ClassCharts & GCSE Pod

Microsoft Teams:

Students have now all been issued with their individual log in details for Microsoft Teams for this academic year. Students should be accessing work Teams where they have missed lessons, to support them with independent study or in the event of having to isolate and work from home.

ClassCharts:

Students have also received their ClassCharts codes so they are able to access any independent study that has been specifically set by their teachers and when their work is due in.

GCSEPod is a free resource to students where they can access GCSE content through watching podcasts. This is an ideal online learning platform to support students with their independent study. GCSEPod can be accessed for free via the website or by downloading the app. <https://www.gcsepod.com/>

How to activate student accounts:

Follow the step by step guide to the right to activate accounts.



How do I use it?

The podcasts can be paused throughout and rewind in order to make effective notes. These notes can then be used to support in answering exam questions or past papers. Notes can also be used in the was below to support with independent study.



Practice Exam Questions & Past Papers

Practising exam questions and past papers helps to perfect your exam techniques whilst checking your knowledge and highlighting any gaps you may have.

Tip: Watch Pods and then answer practice exam questions and past papers. Highlight questions you struggled with and watch the Pods.



Mnemonics

A mnemonic is a code that you create using acronyms, phrases or rhymes and it's designed to help you recall knowledge easily. For example, if you have to remember the order of the colours in the visible spectrum (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet) you could use this mnemonic to help you remember: "Richard of York Gave Battle in Vain". The first letter of each word in the sentence refers to the first letter of the colour.

Tip: Pick out key words from a Pod and create mnemonics to help you remember them.



Flash cards

Summarise the topic on a flash card or post it, use only the key words, symbols, dates, quotes and places. On the flipped side of the card, write the topic's name. This will help you when you come to test your knowledge. For example, what were the causes of World War I and on the reverse, put the key points. When you test yourself, simply look at the topic's name and see if you can remember everything on the other side of the card without looking.

Tip: Create a flash card for each Pod you watch. Write the name of the Pod on one side, and on the other, write all the key information you've learnt. Search YouTube for a video on the "Letner System" to find out more about creating effective flash cards.

Careers - Application guidance

Students are at the stage where they are ready to start filling out College applications and writing their personal statements, should these be necessary. Students have either received or are scheduled to receive a one to one career meeting with Mrs Gibson, our careers advisor from Positive Steps. Progression plans with relevant actions for each student will be sent in the post so that parents and carers can support in the follow up.

It is absolutely vital that no year 11 student is NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) when they leave us. We want a fantastic future for all our students so please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns regarding your child's post 16 progression route. If you would like further information about our Careers programme, there is information on our website. Alternatively, you can contact Mrs Patel, our Director of Enterprise and Senior Leader, at the Academy.

College	When	Virtual or 'in person'?	Application deadline
Access Creative (music production/performance, creative media, Graphic Design, Game Design) www.accesscreative.ac.uk	Tues 27 Oct – various times	VIRTUAL – to book your place go to accesscreative.ac.uk/open-events	No specific deadline
Aquinas sixth form College www.aquinas.ac.uk	From 31 st October, 2020	No open event – instead, Aquinas will make open event materials (videos etc) available on their website from 31 st October	30th Nov 2020
BIMM (music) www.bimm.ac.uk	Sat 10 Oct, 10.30-12.30	VIRTUAL (via Zoom). To book your place, visit https://www.bimm.ac.uk/open-days/manchester/bimm-manchester-virtual-diploma-open-day-10-10-20/	
Cheadle College www.cheadle.cmcnet.ac.uk	Sat 10 Oct, 10-12 Wed 18 Nov, 5-7	VIRTUAL. To book your place: https://cheadle.cmcnet.ac.uk/virtual-open-event/	Fri 18th December, 2020
Loreto Sixth Form College www.loreto.ac.uk	Sat 10 Oct, 10-11.30 AND 12-1.30 Sun 18 Oct, 10-11.30 AND 12-1.30 Sat 7 Nov, 10-11.30 AND 12-1.30	VIRTUAL – you can now register for the events on the college website.	Fri 8th Jan, 2021
Manchester College www.tmc.ac.uk	Mon 12 – Thurs 15 Oct, 5-8pm Mon 23 – Thurs 26 Nov, 5-8pm	VIRTUAL – book your place now on https://www.tmc.ac.uk/news/events	
MEA Sixth Form	TBC	TBC	TBC
Stockport College www.stockport.ac.uk	Thurs 24 Sept, 4.30-7pm	VIRTUAL – book now on https://stockport.ac.uk/about/the-college/events	
Trafford College www.trafford.ac.uk	Sat 7 Nov, 10-12 Thursday 18 March, 4.30-7.30 Sat 19 June, 10-12	VIRTUAL – register here: https://trafford.ac.uk/events/virtual-open-events	
UTC Media City www.utcmidiacityuk.org.uk	21 st Jan, 2021	TBC	TBC
Xaverian College www.xaverian.ac.uk	Sat 10 Oct, 10-12 Sun 18 Oct, 10-12	VIRTUAL VIRTUAL	Fri 15th Jan, 2021

Attendance and Punctuality

Below is an update on attendance within Year 11. Our attendance is 91.4%. 83 students still have 100% attendance in year 11.

Tutor Group Attendances

Tutor Group	Attendance Half term 1 to date
11 Armitage	89.4%
11 Bronte	91.7%
11 Duffy	92.2%
11 Eliot	91.8%
11 Heaney	92.6%
11 Morrison	88.3%
11 Naidu	94.5%
11 Rumi	96.2%

Well done to 11 Rumi who maintained the highest attendance in the year group. All form groups are currently below the 97% target. Given that students lost a large amount of learning time due to COVID-19, please can all students be encouraged to attend the Academy every day.

Year 11 Attendance Drive Week

In the previous academic year, the week commencing 12th October was historically a poor week for attendance for this year group. As such, to drive an improvement in attendance towards the end of the half term, we set this as our attendance drive week. Each day we drew winners from all students who were in attendance and as the week progressed, the prizes got better too!

Day 1 saw 5 prizes be awarded to **Ellie, David, Wisdom, Katelyn** and **Freya**.

Day 2 saw 4 cinema vouchers be awarded to **Lewis, Myles** and **Christian**

Day 3 saw **Jessica, Natalia** and **Kasper** win boxes of Krispy Kremes. Whilst **day 4** winners, **Hayden** and **Sow** won a £20 voucher to Nando's.



Our final winner of the week was **Randa** receiving a £50 Love to Shop voucher. Well done to all of our winners and for all of those students who still have 100% attendance to date.

Punctuality in Year 11 is now more important due to the changes in the school day and period one lessons being missed where students are late to school. Where students are late to school they will remain behind at the end of the day for 30 minutes. After half term Year 11 Period 6 lessons will start to support students learning in core subjects. However students who are late will be expected to attend period 6 lessons as opposed to a late detention.

Finally I would like to announce Year 11 chosen charity that we will fundraise for which is to be Teenage Cancer Trust. A very worthy charity that Year 11 students have fundraised for, for a number of years. More news and updates on this in the next newsletter.

We wish students a safe and prosperous year ahead. As always, please contact the Year 11 team should you have any queries.

