

7th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Year 11 Update

Year 11 continue to shine during their final year at Darton Academy and the next few months will be filled with hard work, dedication, and determination, as they prepare for their final exams. I am writing to let you know about some of the important events in the Year 11 calendar and some suggestions as to how you can support your child in the “final countdown” to their exams.

Prom

We are excited to confirm that our annual Year 11 Prom will be held on Friday 5th July, at The Holiday Inn at Dodworth, between 6.30pm and 11.00pm. Information regarding the cost will be shared with parents and students next week.

We want as many students as possible to come to the prom, however attendance is conditional, subject to good behaviour and effort. This week in assembly, we launched “Passport To The Prom”, so students know exactly what they must do to qualify. Students must have good attendance to school and come to 30 after school enrichment sessions between now and 6th May. There are approximately 80 sessions that students could attend, including holiday revision sessions, so there are plenty of opportunities for students to sign off the sessions on their passports!

It is also a requirement that students have at least 10 weeks when their sparx is 100% complete.

We will take into account any special considerations which need to be made for students with unique circumstances such as absence due to medical treatment or other issues out of their control.

Results Assembly, Monday 15th January

All results from the Trials will be in after the Christmas break, meaning we will share these with students and parents on Monday 15th January.

Parent's Evening – Thursday 25th January

Shortly after the results assembly, parents and carers will have the opportunity to speak to subject teachers when we host our Year 11 Parent's Evening in the new year. Details of the event will be shared in January, please keep the date free in your diary. This will be a great opportunity to discuss the final push towards the end of year exams.

After School Enrichment

In September we asked if you could support us by encouraging your child to attend school until 3:15pm each day for an enrichment session to boost their chances of success. It is great to see Year 11 pupils working hard in all subjects during this time. I am very grateful to our teaching staff for making this possible and for your support in ensuring your child attends this session every day. Please see the timetable for after school enrichment below.



Home Learning

Year 11 pupils are also engaging well with Sparx Maths <https://sparxmaths.com/> and GCSEPod <https://www.gcsepod.com/>. Please could you encourage your child to use the online learning packages as much as possible.

Although we strongly encourage our year 11 students to enjoy a restful break, we also recognise that there is a week after the New Year, when students can get back to their studies, giving themselves a great start to the new term. With this in mind, our departments have set holiday homework tasks, which we expect all students to complete. Please see the attached document for the details of these tasks.

Contingency Exam Dates

In case of any major disruption to the examination system in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, the exam boards, government, and Joint Council for Qualifications developed a contingency plan, so that exams can continue to take place. Examples of disruptions could include severe weather, widespread illness, travel disruption or system failures. The awarding bodies have designated the afternoon sessions of Thursday 6 June 2024 and Thursday 13 June 2024 and the morning and afternoon sessions of Wednesday 26 June 2024 as 'contingency sessions' for examinations.

You can use the links below to can find information about exams, revision techniques and how you can support your child's mental health.

<https://www.dartonacademy.org.uk/exam-information/>

<https://www.dartonacademy.org.uk/revision-tips/>

<https://www.dartonacademy.org.uk/knowledge-base/pupil-safety/>

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

<https://www.compass-uk.org/>

The following links can be used to access the online platforms that your child can use at home to support their learning.

<https://sparxmaths.com>

<https://www.gcsepod.com>

<https://www.languagenut.com>

Finally, I would like to remind you that with a final push of effort and hard work over the next few months, your child has the potential to achieve great things. The upcoming exams may seem daunting, but with your support and encouragement, they can overcome any obstacle that comes their way.

Regards

Mr JP Craig
Vice Principal