



YEAR 11 MATTERS

Dear Year 11 Parents/Carers,

Year 11 is a busy academic year that always seems to speed up as we get closer to the GCSE exam season. There is a lot going on this month and next. Students have some practice exams in class as well as in the Theatre, to gauge progress and check what still needs careful revision. Before the Easter break, they also sit an exam in the Sports Hall. This is the venue for the summer exams, so we give Year 11 an exam here to familiarise everyone with using this space. The Class of 2025 have conducted themselves very well in all their exams so we are confident they will cope well with this change.

On 20 March we have Gilbert Hannam Day, when students will all attend the Parish Church service in the morning, to observe the annual tradition of honouring the life and service of our original school founder. On the same evening, our prize-giving event will be held in College. We will be in touch about invitations nearer the time.

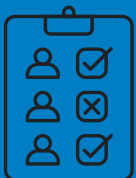
On 31 March, students will attend their second workshop with Elevate Education. This is timed just before term ends to prepare and inspire students. If they get organised to study during the Easter break, they can avoid last minute panic and stress during the exam season.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Ashley Lamb
Head of Year

Mrs Fiona Lunskey
Assistant Principal

1. Exam Season Dates
2. Work Life Balance
3. The Final Push
4. Flip Out
5. Prom 2025
6. Elevate Education



Last weeks attendance

92.3%

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Tuesday 4 February 2025

- **Elevate Education Webinar - How you can make technology an ally (not the enemy)**

February



1. Exam Season Important Dates

The GCSE Examination window opens on Wednesday 7 May and closes on Wednesday 18 June 2025. It is therefore extremely important not to book holidays, music festivals, time away from College during this period as students are required to sit all the exams they have been entered into. The JCQ sets an additional contingency week after this in case of any national event that could disrupt the advanced exam time table. For this reason we advise parents to allow for 5 more working days after their last exam. If a component of an exam subject is missed parents/guardians will be charged £80 by the exam board which may also reflect negatively on the final grade. The full exam timetable can be found [here](#).

Another important date for the diary is our Prom celebration! Thursday 3 July 2025.

2. Work Life Balance

Some students, who have turned 16 already, have part time jobs which help them learn useful skills, structure their time, earn a little money and gain self-confidence. However, until mid-June it is vital to spend quality time on revision as well. Finding a good work / study balance is crucial to a successful set of GCSE results in August.

There are laws which all UK employers must abide by. These laws help pupils focus on their education and protect young people from exploitation in the workplace. During term time a maximum of 2 hours is allowed on a school day or Sundays, with a maximum of 8 hours' work on Saturdays. We would advise parents and carers to ensure Year 11 students reduce their paid work hours to focus on revision during March - May. During the exam season, we would advise students not to commit to paid work. After students finish their exams in June, they will have a long summer break which will be ideal for working at a paid job, if they wish to gain this experience.

3. The Final Push

Thank you to those who attended the Final Push evening. The Directors of Science, Maths and English presentations are attached. Also attached is the presentation from Mrs Lunskey and Mr Lamb which talks about student wellbeing during this demanding phase of their education.

We would be grateful if you could complete the short feedback form [HERE](#)

4. Flip Out

The Year 11 rewards trip to Flip Out took place on Monday 27 January. They had a fantastic time bouncing on trampolines, navigating obstacle courses, and challenging each other in various activities.

The smiles and laughter throughout the evening were a testament to how much they enjoyed this reward.



5. Prom 2025

Parents and carers are reminded to sign their son/daughter up for this celebration taking place at The Old Thorns Hotel on Thursday 3 July. You can secure their place on Arbor.

6. Elevate Education

Don't forget to sign up to our parent webinar and live Q&A on **Making Technology an Ally, taking place tomorrow at 6.00 - 7.00pm.**

We had over 9,000 parents attend our last webinar, with many of them sharing how relevant they found the session to their situation: "I learnt so much and felt so on-point with my teenage son. It also helped me see that some of the things I am already doing are on the right track". "Information, with practical examples and real-life applications. Simple and easy to remember".

Tomorrow we will go over:

Reducing your child's dependence on technology
Using Apps to prevent your child procrastinating
Using technology to enhance your child's learning
How you can make technology an ally (and not the enemy!)

Tuesday 4 February 2025

6pm - 7pm

[Click HERE to reserve place](#)

Spring Term Webinar Schedule

How to Help Your Child Improve Their Note Taking

*Learn how your child can take their notes in a more effective way, improving their memory **and** saving them time.*



How You Can Make Technology an Ally (Not the Enemy!)

*With more and more schoolwork being set online, we'll show you how you can utilise all the **good** parts of tech - and remove the bad.*



How You Can Help Your Child Prepare for Exams

We'll show you what kinds of work your child should (and should not) be doing in the run-up to exam season.



How You Can Support Your Child During Exams

Learn how to help your child manage overwhelm, stress, and anxiety during exam season.

