

February 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

We have passed the halfway point of Year 11 and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. In December, we received a full Ofsted inspection and were judged as no longer being in 'special measures'. The inspectors recognised the improvements we have made in teaching and learning and praised our school for its inclusivity and the social harmony of our students. They were impressed with the standard of students' books and acknowledged that the "very large majority" of our parents feel that their child makes good progress at John Willmott School. Through hard work and dedication to their own studies and the wider school community, our students will continue to play a crucial role in our journey to being judged as 'Good'.

### **Attendance & Punctuality**

Ofsted recognised that we are making improvements in our attendance and punctuality and I would like to thank you for playing your part in this by ensuring that your son/daughter is attending school regularly and on time. In Year 11 it is vitally important that the students attend school as there is direct link between academic success and overall attendance. I would appreciate the support of parents/carers in this area to get the most out of the remaining weeks we have in school.

At John Willmott School, we expect all students to achieve a minimum attendance of 96%. An attendance of 90% is the equivalent of being absent for one day (5 hours of learning) every two weeks. Over the course of an academic year, it means that 19 days (95 hours of learning) have been missed. Please contact the Attendance Office for every day that your child is absent and send in a note on the first day of their returning, with an explanation of their absence. The school day begins at 8.50am and we expect all students to be in school before that time. If your child arrives after 8.50am twice in a week then this will result in your son/daughter receiving a detention.

I was thrilled to recognise the dedication of our in the end of term 'Celebrate Success,' assembly when the students with 100% Attendance were awarded with their certificates. These students were also entered in to a draw to win Amazon vouchers in a later assembly to reward them for their efforts.

### **Uniform**

Thank you for your support in ensuring your son/daughter is attending school in the correct uniform. All pupils are expected to wear the correct uniform, including school tie and blazer. Our uniform policy is detailed in the Student Planner and on the School website. I would like to draw particular attention to footwear: shoes must be plain black, with no logos. Trainers and pumps are not permitted. We do permit black Nike Air Force 1s (with metal tag removed) as a school shoe. Skirts must be 2 inches above the knee and not tight fitting. Trousers also must not be tight fitting. Jumpers must be a grey John Willmott School jumper and the wearing of 'hoodies' is not permitted. If your son/daughter comes to school in the incorrect uniform or with an appearance unsuitable for a school environment they may be removed from lessons if the problem cannot be rectified.

With exam season coming up, having correct uniform is of the utmost importance. Your son/daughter may not be able to enter their exams if they are not in correct uniform.

### **Equipment, Conduct Cards & Planners**

I expect all Year 11 students to come to school equipped ready to learn. Every student requires the following items, as a minimum: black pens, pencil, rubber and ruler and these should be placed in a suitably sized pencil case. All students should also have a school bag of a suitable size. Please ensure that your child has the correct equipment on return to school after the holiday. All pupils will be issued with a new 'Conduct Card' which they must carry in their blazer at all times.

### **Rewards and sanctions**

We offer a variety of rewards to encourage students and praise good behaviour. Students can earn House Points for excellence, in and out of the classroom. All members of staff make a 'Feel Good Friday' phone call weekly for a student they feel has made a particularly positive contribution that week. I for one know this is my favourite part of my week. Students have the chance to earn a variety of postcards and certificates, particularly our new 'LORIC' certificates that individually recognise achievements in Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative and Communication. As mentioned previously, reward trips that recognise excellent attendance and behaviour take place throughout the year. If your son/daughter is placed in detention, this is because they have not adhered to the school behaviour policy. All pupils are expected to attend as failure to do so may result in a further sanction being given. I expect the same high standards of effort and behaviour from all Year 11 students, being considerate of the learning and happiness of others, both in and out of the classroom.

### **Revision**

The final GCSE exams are fast approaching and with Trial exams in March it is essential that your son/daughter is revising regularly at home to support their learning at school. Their class teachers have provided them with knowledge organisers and further resource packs in their subject to support with their revision but this can also be supplemented with revision guides, class books and also many online resources available.

As a school we have invested in two key revision tools that will help boost the student's knowledge in their subjects and give an alternate way of revising.

GCSEpod – <https://www.gcsepod.com/>

This website provides a whole range of videos and audio podcasts in all of their chosen subjects. All they need to do is go on to website, sign up, enter in their subjects and they then can then access all of the resources. A big benefit of it being a website and app is that students can download the podcasts to use anywhere whether it be at home or on journeys.

Mathswatch – <https://vle.mathswatch.co.uk/vle/>

This website is a great way for students to revise for their Maths exam. They can use it as a general revision too but also to practice topics they have learnt about in lesson and build up their knowledge in areas they may be finding difficult. Their Maths teachers will often set them areas to study on the website which will be helpful for their progress

Both these websites benefit from being able to be tracked by members of staff at school. This means we can see the usage of each of the students and also communicate this to parents who want to see how much each website is being used.

Finally, many departments are already putting on revision classes at lunch times and after school and this will increase as we move towards their exams. This is another way for students to access further support in their subjects and to continue to progress. Please encourage you son/daughter to attend these sessions as regularly as possible.

**Year 11 Key Dates**

Monday 18 - Friday 29 March 2019: Trial Exams

Monday 8 - Friday 12 April: Immersion Week

Monday 13 May - Wednesday 26 June 2019: Final Exams

Thursday 4 July 2019: Provisional Prom Date – This is subject to confirmation with venue. A formal letter will be sent home with further details.

I am fully aware that is a stressful period for the students in this year group and it will require a big push from us all to get them over the line. I believe with the staff, parents/carers and students all working together we will bring great success to the current year group.

Once again, thank you for your support over the year and, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or your son/daughter's Form Tutor.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AN' followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Mr A Nimmo  
Head of Year 11