



28th April 2022

Dear parent / carer

Y11 Key Updates

Quick read

- Students in Y11 have been issued with their phased dismissal document today. This document is basically a diary including lessons, examinations, slam and booster sessions and a record of their personal revision.
- The Prom Committee has met four times with Mrs Weschenfelder and I. The wider student body has been invited to vote on various aspects of the event. Tutors of students in Y11 will be completing the second official check in with their tutees to discuss whether each student is on track to be eligible for an invite.
- The leavers' assembly will take place after the final examinations. Mr Wilson and I will write to you closer to the time with the final arrangements for this and prom.
- Exams are due to commence on Monday 16th May. Students have a copy of their timetable, it has also been emailed to them and the dates of each exam are also in their phased dismissal document. On Tuesday 3rd May I will be addressing the students in assembly about exam regulations and expectations and how to best keep themselves prepared for the examination period.
- Thank you to those parents / carers who were requested to and attended our Y11 Targeted Parents' Evening. 125 parents / carers were asked to join us to receive feedback in one or more subjects. I wrote to you separately to request feedback on this event. If you were not asked to attend the virtual event, this was because your child's teacher did not have any concerns about your child's progress.

Phased Dismissal

Students in Y11 have been issued with their Phased Dismissal document today. This document is basically a diary including lessons, examinations, slam and booster sessions and should be used as a record of their personal revision. I have added some answers to some key questions which I hope you find useful.

What is the purpose of a phased dismissal?

Students in Y11 are expected to attend all lessons for each subject up until they have completed every exam for that subject. This is to support your child in attaining the best possible results in their examinations. In the classroom, your child will be with their class teacher who will be preparing focused revision activities. As the subject specialist, your child will have the best support at hand should they become stuck.

What is a 'slam' session?

A slam session usually takes place in the morning or afternoon before the examination is due to take place. It lasts between thirty and sixty minutes. Your child's teacher will remind them of the pertinent points for success on the forthcoming exam paper, checking that key revision has been completed and retained.

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What is a 'booster' session?

A booster session takes place just before the exam. It allows your child the opportunity to access last minute support - whether that is last minute checks on subject related facts and tips or pastoral support to help calm your child's nerves.

How can I help with my child's planning for the remaining weeks?

Ensure your child is completing their own personal revision to boost all the support they are receiving in school. Help them plan their revision if they are struggling and if you need any help, please refer to our [Parental Support area](#) on our website which I directed you to in my last correspondence. Ensure they are also having some 'downtime' - it is essential for their mental health and well-being that they sleep and eat properly, as well as spending time enjoying their chosen hobbies.

How has my child been informed about this process?

Your child has been informed about the process and expectations in the examinations through assemblies. They will also have a follow up assembly with me next Tuesday. Students have also been given information about revision strategies through LIFE and in lessons. Finally, they have had specific time in tutor time to complete their documentation.

Why do we not allow students to revise from home throughout the exam period?

There are many distractions at home - mobile phones, access to social media, watching the television and playing games consoles. These are all removed in school. The government also promotes students attending school for this support to avoid students going back over at the last hurdle. There is also the aforementioned benefit of having their class teacher on-hand.

Prom

The Prom Committee has met four times with Mrs Weschenfelder and I; the wider student body has also been invited to vote on various aspects of the event. Tutors of students in Y11 will be completing the second official check in with their tutees to discuss whether each student is on track to be eligible for an invite, which the vast majority are.

Leavers Celebration Assembly

Leavers' assembly will take place after the final examinations have taken place. Mr Wilson and I will write to you closer to the time with the final arrangements for this and prom.

Examinations

Your child will be issued with their personal timetable to add to their phased dismissal document next Tuesday. This is to give them time to check for any issues - which we are not expecting. If they do think there is a problem, they should contact Mrs D. Darby, Examinations Officer, via d.darby@stokesleyschool.org

For ease, I have added the link to the summer timetable again for [Y11 examinations](#).





Feedback request

Thank you to those parents / carers who were requested to and attended our Y11 Targeted Parents' Evening. 125 parents / carers were asked to join us to receive feedback in one or more subjects. I wrote to you separately to request feedback on this event. If you were not asked to attend the virtual event, this was because your child's teacher did not have any concerns about your child's progress.

Intervention and voluntary support sessions

Our schedule for targeted and voluntary interventions will continue up until and during the examination period to continue to offer support for those students who need it or want to access it.

For ease, I have added the link to the [schedule](#) again for Y11.

Senior Prefect Applications

Y11 applications for this new position were opened prior to the Easter break. We are thrilled to have over 40 applications which I reviewed with Mrs Jeal, Head of Y12/13. Interviews will take place next week.

I have been really proud of the way in which Y11 students are rising to the challenges of forthcoming examinations. Many students have already completed elements in some of their examinations. This week, we had our PE moderation where our amazing athletes demonstrated fantastic teamwork and were highly commended on the demonstrations of their skills. Just before the Easter break, I was thrilled to be invited to our hospitality students' tasting sessions where they showcased an incredibly high standard of cooking. We posted pictures on our social media channels, but this did not do justice to the delicious delicacies and intricate presentation created for the assessment. After what has been a difficult period for everyone over the last two years, our message to our students remains the same; *stay focused in every lesson, work hard, revise little and often at home, and ensure you build in downtime into your schedules to relax and recuperate.*

Everyone at school is going above and beyond in their support of your child at this crucial time. However, if you are worried about anything or would like any further information, please don't hesitate to contact Mr Wilson, Head of Y11 via n.wilson@stokesleyschool.org or your child's tutor. I can also be reached via j.darbyshire@stokesleyschool.org if there is something specific your child's tutor or Head of Year cannot help with.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Darbyshire
Deputy Headteacher
Achievement and Standards

