



TO CARE  
TO LEARN  
TO ACHIEVE

**BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL**  
A Specialist Business and Enterprise College  
with Applied Learning  
Headteacher: Mrs H J Phillips

5th October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

### Information for Year 11 Students and Parents

#### The Importance of Year 11

As you will know, Year 11 is an important time, with students preparing for their GCSE exams. Some students and parents may feel anxious about this, as a significant amount of time in school was missed during Year 10 due to the lockdown. However, there are reasons to be reassured. Firstly, exam boards have taken the time missed into account, and made some adjustments to next summer's exams. Secondly, students at Bedford have had three years to study exams courses, which is more than in many schools. Students at Bedford should not be disadvantaged in any way in comparison with their peers nationally. However, as always, it is crucial that every student does what is required during Year 11 to ensure that the best possible grades are achieved.

#### Expectations of students

- **Attendance:** Students should attend every possible day. History shows that students with attendance of 96% or higher achieve significantly better results than those with lower attendance.
- **Behaviour for Learning:** Students must be fully focused and not distract themselves or others from studying.
- **Effort:** Students must work consistently hard in every lesson.
- **Revision:** Students should be spending an average of **two hours per evening revising at home**. Every student should devise and follow a revision timetable.
- **Remote Learning:** Whilst we hope it will not be necessary, there may be times when Year 11 students have to self-isolate at home. During any such periods it is important that students complete all work set and keep in touch with their teachers.

#### Revision

All students have received training and guidance on revision. Students should have;


- A Revision Timetable
- Revision Guides and Materials
- Knowledge of useful revision strategies
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If any student requires further help with this, he/she should see Mrs Rooney.

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## Extra Support

Staff in school will provide Year 11 students with extra support, including;

- **Period 6:** After-school sessions have already started in some subjects, and will commence fully after October half-term. Sometimes a teacher will ask a whole class to attend Period 6. At other times, the session may be targeted at a smaller group or individuals. Students are expected to stay for Period 6 when asked by the teacher. The sessions are organized as follows;
  - Monday: Science
  - Tuesday: English
  - Wednesday: Options Subjects
  - Thursday: Maths
  - Friday: Options: Subjects
- **Weekend and holiday sessions:** Details will follow later in the year.
- Additional government support will also be provided through the **National Tutoring Programme**. Once these external tutors and mentors have been allocated to the school, we will contact the parents of invited students with more details. The government has stipulated that students who are disadvantaged or have the widest gaps in their knowledge as a result of the lockdown must be prioritised for support.

## The Role of Parents/Carers

Parents/carers have a key role to play in supporting students during Year 11. Checking that revision is being complete at home is particularly important. Unfortunately, due to Covid19, the planned Year 11 Exam Preparation Evening for parents will not be able to take place at school. However, instead we will make some short videos which will provide useful information.

## Screening Report

The first screening report of Year 11 will be shared with you before October half-term. This will provide updated information on how students are achieving and working.

## Mock Exams

The mock exams will take place from **23rd November to 15th December**. Your child will receive an exams timetable in advance. Students should be revising now in preparation for these exams. Mock exams are even more important than usual this year. As you may know, last summer the exams were cancelled and schools submitted Centre Assesse Grades based on the available evidence. Mock exams scores formed an important part of this evidence. Whilst the government has made it clear that the intention is for the exams to go ahead next summer, none of us can be certain how the pandemic may develop, and what impact this may have. Consequently, it would be beneficial for students to revise and prepare thoroughly for the mock exams, so they can achieve the best grads possible.

## Year 11 Prom

We sincerely hope that it will be possible to provide a Prom at the end of Year 11. We have decided to stage the event at school. If we book an external venue, there is a risk that the event would be cancelled due to government rules related to the pandemic. However, at school the year group 'bubble' would not mix with the public, so there is a better chance of it actually going ahead. It will be possible to transform the bistro into a good Prom venue. The students seem positive about this, and a Prom committee has been set up to plan

the event. We will let you know as soon as a date has been confirmed. As in previous years, an invite to the Prom is a reward for good performance throughout Year 11. Students will be invited if they meet the following criteria;

- Attendance 93% or above (any Covid 19-related absences will be removed from the calculation)
- At least 90% punctuality
- Behaviour: the number of positive achievement points at least 50 higher than the number of negative behaviour points
- No fixed term exclusions
- All coursework completed
- All exams attended

If you have any questions or wish to discuss your child's progress, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,



Mr P. Shelton  
Deputy Headteacher