

3rd March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: Year 11 GCSE Examinations

We hope that your daughter has had a restful half term break and is now looking ahead to the final weeks before her GCSE examinations. Recently you will have received your daughter's review grades and discussed them with her to decide which subjects need more effort or perhaps to identify a common theme she may need to concentrate on. We would also encourage your daughter to make the most of the revision and catch-up sessions on offer outside of lesson time.

The actual GCSE exams are now rapidly approaching, with just five weeks to go before the Easter break and another two weeks after Easter before the exams start on **Monday 11th May**, so it is vital that students take on board the advice of their teachers and organise their time carefully. Year 11's last full day in school will be **Thursday 7th May** before the study leave period commences. Another letter will be sent out confirming arrangements for this.

We ask for your support in encouraging your daughter to really make the most of the time she has left before the final exams. We continue to uphold high expectations of attendance, punctuality, uniform and behaviour for all students. The revision and exam technique practice which takes place in lessons across all subjects now is invaluable in preparation for the final exams. Morning registration is also a very important time of the day with lots of information being shared with students. Please ensure your daughter is on time to school and attends all registration sessions and assemblies. We cannot emphasise enough what an important part of the day this is.

The Holt's school uniform policy remains the same for Year 11, and we expect all Year 11 students to adhere to it. Students must enter the examination hall wearing full, correct uniform or they will be asked to put it right.

Whilst the behaviour of Year 11 continues to be good overall, it is essential that in these remaining weeks and throughout the study leave period, this continues and all lessons are focused and purposeful. We will not accept any behaviour which has the potential to disrupt the learning of others. Therefore we have begun our annual "three strikes rule". This is essentially a zero-tolerance approach to any behaviour that disrupts the learning of others and means that if a student gets three strikes against her name between 24th February (the beginning of this half term) and the last exam, including study leave on the school site, she will not be allowed to go to the Prom on **Friday 26th June** at the Coppid Beech Hotel.

A student may be given a strike for any of the following:

- Being sent to the silence room
- Truancy
- Swearing/direct verbal abuse towards any member of our community
- Being given an internal exclusion or being put on guidelines
- Failure to attend detentions

A member of staff will inform me or the Co-Head teachers of any behaviour that may warrant a strike and, if agreed, Mrs Kennedy or Mrs Pearce will see the student to issue a strike. I will then email home to inform parents that their daughter has been given a strike and explain how many chances are left.

This has been explained to students in an assembly so they are clear of our expectations regarding behaviour. The prom is a wonderful celebration of Year 11's hard work, perseverance and success and we want all of our students to be able to attend. Hopefully, all students will understand why we need to implement this rule because if anyone decides to disrupt a lesson then it will affect not only their own learning, but also that of their peers.

We appreciate that this is one of the busiest and most intense times of your daughter's school career so far, but you and she will get through it and in less than four months it will all be over. In the meantime if there is anything you need help or advice with then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

G. Priddy

Mrs G Priddy
Head of Year 11