

30 April 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian/Carer

The Year 11 run in to final exams is now well and truly underway. I would like to take this opportunity to say 'welcome back' at the start of what will prove to be a decisive term in shaping your child's future.

I wrote to all parents in September celebrating the success of our headline examination results from last year. Once again students performed above the national average at GCSE and I am also pleased to report an excellent set of results for our 6th Formers. I am confident that the current cohort of Year 11 students will surpass these excellent results.

Success like this does not come easy, and is by no means guaranteed, just because you attend a great school. Success is the product of a strong relationship between home and school. The students who succeed this year will be those who work hard at school and then follow this up with conscientious and diligent study during their hours at home, in the evening and at the weekend. It is important that we all recognise that this will be your child's most challenging term so far.

I thought it appropriate that I highlight a few key points that might help us navigate this final term together. If we do this well, then your child will certainly achieve everything that he/she is capable of.

Home/School Communication

I can promise you that at some point throughout the exam term students will become stressed and anxious. This is normal. I would be getting stressed and anxious if my students did not experience this some of the time in Year 11. The key here is how we help manage this together. Good eating and sleeping habits are critical. I would encourage mobile phones to be charged overnight outside of the bedroom where your child sleeps.

Lots of positive support from home and school are equally important. If you or your child have any concerns – please talk to us. We will be able to help. Don't wait – the final term will fly by - there are only 3 weeks left until the first exam as I write this letter to you! In the first instance contact your child's subject teacher directly. You can also contact Miss Charles, the Head of Year and as ever, I am very happy to support students and families personally if you feel this would be helpful.

Taking Responsibility

High quality teaching and learning remains the key to student success and we will make that happen. But this will not be sufficient to secure success and there are many factors which may influence the outcome of the final examination results. These include motivation, attitude to learning, and most importantly students taking responsibility for shaping their own future.

Taking time now to plan a personal revision schedule is critical. Students will spend 25 hours a week in school and they should also attend as many after school revision sessions as possible. They must build on this by studying consistently at home. I would recommend a minimum of 2 hours a night during this term. I have often said to the students, 'You will get the examination results you deserve - work hard and put the hours in. If you do this now you will benefit from this short-term hard work for the rest of your life.' There are enrichment and revision lessons every day after school, details can be found on the website. Please encourage your child to make the most of these opportunities by attending as many as possible.



Sapere Aude

Mallard Road
Bournemouth
Dorset BH8 9PW

T : 01202 512697
F : 01202 513181

E : office@tbowa.org
W : www.tbowa.org

Standards

You know that we have embedded a culture of 'High Expectation - No Excuses' at TBOWA. I am really proud of the way in which Year 11 lead on this by role-modelling all that is expected in terms of attitude to learning, behaviour, attendance, punctuality and uniform. I can assure you that there will be a zero-tolerance approach for students who do not adhere to our shared 'High Expectations' and I would be disappointed if the school needed to intervene for non-adherence in the final stages of Year 11. It is important that you can have full confidence that the school will not allow any individuals to interfere with your child's education.

Requests for students to take early study leave will not be authorised. Students will be expected to attend at all times until 2.00pm on Friday 7th June. After this date students will be expected to be in school for all exams, lessons for subjects which they still have exams for and any 'turbo timetable' lessons. The school has invested considerable resources in securing highly qualified, experienced teachers, who achieve results. Lessons will be as normal. Students are expected to attend revision sessions after school. As ever, your support with this is invaluable.

It has all come around very quickly.....

It really does seem a very short time ago that I was showing you and your Year 6 child around TBOWA. Where did that time go? And haven't things changed?

To mark the end of Year 11 there are a number of TBOWA traditions. These have to be earned and are by no means a right and participation in these events is by invitation only. To guarantee receiving an invitation, students will need to demonstrate a consistently good attitude to learning and behaviour at all times, and very good attendance. I am, of course, referring to the Farewell Candle Assembly, which will take place on Thursday 20th June and, perhaps most significantly for many students, the Year 11 Prom, later the same day. These are all great events and I would want to see all of Year 11 receive an invitation – however, it will be very much up to them!

I really do wish all of you, parents and students, the very best of luck for this exciting term. Please do not underestimate the challenge ahead. I firmly believe that this year group has the potential to outperform all previous year groups. They are a talented group of students. If we work together then dreams can become reality and students will be rightly rewarded for their hard work in this final year.

Best wishes



Paul McKeown
Principal

