



Headteacher : Dr Simon Letman BA, MA, EdD
Deputy Head : Nicola Shelley

4th May 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

Keeping Year 11 on track

I am writing to ask for your support in helping us to keep Year 11 students on track in what is now the 'final furlong'.

You will be aware that the main public examination programme commences in less than two weeks and continues until the end of June. You will have received a letter from Mr Hart last week concerning the arrangements we have put in place for revision opportunities. Mr Hart also explained our policy on 'examination leave' both up to and after half-term. I hope that everything is clear in this regard.

What we are concerned about, however, is that a larger number of Year 11 students than usual appear to be too relaxed about the coming challenges compared with their predecessors. This does not apply to all students, and it is certainly the case that a significant proportion of the year group is focused and clearly taking things very seriously. However, a significant proportion is not, and so we would ask you to be vigilant about this when you are dealing with your son/daughter at home.

For example, there has been significant slippage in uniform standards this term with boys and girls. The fact that this is their final term in school is no excuse for this and we have made it clear to students that sanctions will be applied to individuals if academy rules are not complied with. This includes regulations on nose and ear piercings as well as the wearing of jeans, branded trainers, hoodies and bomber jackets. As sanctions include exclusion, I would be grateful if you could monitor things from home and ensure that proper school uniform is being worn. Students need to be in school at this important time. Students should also note that repeated breaches of regulations may call their attendance at Leavers' Day and this year's Prom into question.

Pressure manifests itself in many ways, and sometimes an apparently over-relaxed attitude can be a defence mechanism some students use. Although I have no doubt that this may apply to some students in Year 11, we believe that the majority of those who appear to have a 'couldn't care less attitude' perhaps don't, and this needs to be addressed. We are proud of our position as the sixth best performing state school in Suffolk and we spend a lot of time encouraging students to aspire to do as well as they can both here and in the future. For some, however, the desire to succeed at this crucial time seems to be sadly lacking.

I would be grateful for your backing as we try to guide your sons and daughters to that success this summer and to support us in our attempts to keep them focused and 'on board'. Should you have concerns about your child's attitude or progress then please do get in touch with the tutor or Mr Hart, the Assistant Head, and share those concerns.

We all look forward to another successful year for all of our outgoing students, something we are confident we can achieve if we all work together.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Letman', with a horizontal line underneath.

Dr Simon Letman