



18th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: YEAR 11 CURRICULUM, REMOTE LEARNING, AND EXAMINATIONS 2021 UPDATE

As a school, we are very pleased with how our Year 11 students have engaged with the ongoing challenges posed by Covid-19. The vast majority of our students have participated well with remote learning in the first week back at school. In addition, more information from the government and OFQUAL is coming out all the time about arrangements for the 2021 examination series, which is highlighted below. You will also be receiving this week a separate letter about arrangements for next week's Year 11 Parents' Evening. Please read all of this information carefully, and contact the school if you have any further questions.

Remote Learning

- All Zoom codes for registration time and lessons have been sent out to parents and are on Show My Homework
- All students are expected to log on each day for registration at 8.40am. This is important as it enables students to receive relevant information each day. It also allows our form tutors to check in on students' mental health and well-being
- All students are expected to be fully equipped for their Zoom lessons each day. They should login with their video on, and remain for the duration of the lesson. They should also be suitably dressed, and be able to work in an area that allows them to concentrate and focus
- The normal high standards of behaviour are expected, and staff reserve the right (as normal) to sanction or remove the student from the lesson if these standards are not met. Any poor behaviour will be followed up by either the Head of Year, form tutor or pastoral manager
- Class work and homework will be uploaded by staff each day to ensure that no learning time is missed
- All students are expected to have a good attitude to learning and to complete all work set. Students should be aware that their centre-assessed grade (see below) will be based upon all of their class work, homework and assessments completed in Year 10 and Year 11 so far **and all work to be completed between now and the time that they leave St. James'**

Examinations 2021 – key information at present

- Following the government announcement on 4th January, students will now not be sitting their examinations as normal in June 2021
- All GCSE and vocational syllabi will be delivered as normal in line with our KS4 curriculum (see www.stjamesheadle.co.uk/curriculum for more details)
- Assessment in all subjects will be founded upon a teacher-assessed grade, based upon all of the work completed in Year 10 and Year 11 thus far, and all work remaining to be completed before students leave
- The government has recently announced that teacher assessment will also be partly based upon 'mini examinations', although we are awaiting final clarification on this
- The BTEC examinations due to be taking place in February 2021 for Travel and Tourism and ICT will now not be going ahead, and we await further information on assessment arrangements



HALF TERM 3

The Curriculum at St. James' is the foundation of everything that we do in school, and full information about what your child will be learning at Key Stage 4 can be found on the school website at www.stjamesheadle.co.uk/curriculum. Here, you will find whole school and faculty curriculum statements which sum up our vision of what a knowledge-rich, properly sequenced and challenging education should look like. By clicking on each faculty icon, you will be taken to the curriculum 'progression grids' for each subject, which outline what will be taught each half term and how it will be assessed.

In Half Term 3, this is what is intended to be studied in the Year 11 core curriculum. For your child's option subjects, please consult the school website at www.stjamesheadle.co.uk/curriculum. Please be aware that due to the current restrictions, including the delivery of remote learning, the delivery of the curriculum may be subject to change:

| SUBJECT | TEACHING CONTENT | ASSESSMENT |
|----------------|--|--|
| English | Students will study a range of example nonfiction pieces of text from a range of contexts. Focus: reading skills including inference, analysis and comparison. | HT1 & HT2 AFL throughout, exam style questions. Summative assessment; Key disciplinary knowledge Writers' viewpoints and perspectives Features of non-fiction text types |
| Mathematics | Unit 3: Graphs H: Trig graphs Equation of a circle Tangent to a circle Gradients of curves Area under a graph Turning points Approximate solutions to graphs F: Linear graphs Distance time graphs Velocity time graphs | HT 2 Assessment |
| RE | Good, evil and suffering Catholic beliefs about goodness; Philosophical challenges about goodness the meaning of suffering and ambivalence | Ongoing formative and summative assessment |
| Science | Waves - how waves carry energy from one place to another and how they carry information. Chemical Analysis - We learn about the range of qualitative tests to detect specific chemicals. Variation and Evolution - how the number of chromosomes are halved during meiosis and then combined with new genes from the sexual partner to produce unique offspring. | Students will be assessed by a series of end of topic tests followed by a larger assessment at the end of the term |
| PE | Boys Football Re-visit skills learnt in Year 10. Apply these skills in full competitive games | Individuals are allowed to develop their performance in the activity of their choice from badminton / |



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| | developing a variety of tactics and strategies to overcome opponents. Handball Re-visit skills learnt in Year 10. Girls Badminton Re-visit skills learnt in Year 10. Apply these skills in full competitive games developing a variety of tactics and strategies to overcome opponents. | table tennis and football / handball with the aim of developing their technique and improving their performance. |
| PSHCE | Unit 4 Computing Coding Unit 5 Citizenship Political and international issues Should Britain re-join the EU? The Commonwealth | |

Supporting your child

This remains a challenging time for all of us – parents, staff and most of all our students. As always, there are many people in school who can support both you and your child during this time. Equally, as parents, it is important to remember the following points about how to support your child

- Speak to your child about what they are doing – this could be through asking them what they have done, testing them on what they have written etc
- Ensure that they have regular breaks and get a good night's sleep – work in chunks of time, turn off mobile phones and devices an hour in advance of going to bed
- At the same time, reassure them – at home and in school, we want to challenge our students to do their very best, but we also need to understand the stressful time that we have all gone through (and continue to go through)

Finally, please keep in your prayers the Year 11 student who was injured over Christmas, as well as all of his family and those affected by this tragic incident.

Yours faithfully,

Dr S Guscott
Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum and Pastoral)