

14th February 2025

Dear Parent/Carers,

Thank You!

Since September 2020, I have been so grateful for the support and collaboration between yourself and the school, to ensure we can be in the best possible position to enable your son/daughter to be ready to sit their GCSE exams. For almost 4 and a half years, we have worked in partnership to develop our Year 11's character, their values and ensure that they can be the best they can be, with confidence and aspirations to pursue whatever they want to do in the future.

I wanted to write to you to say thank you for your continued support and to outline what the final four months look like for a parent/carer. We speak regularly to our Year 11 students about how to navigate this year, but the next 4 months are just as challenging for parents and carers too, especially if you have not had the experience of a 16-year-old sitting exams yet!

All Year 11 students have responded very positive after their Mock Result Day in December. They have returned in January with an increased level of determination and focus which I am so proud to see. The students are taking this year seriously, but it will not always be a smooth final few months for a Parent/Carer. We all want the same thing for your child so our expectations of all of Year 11 will remain high and with your continued support, we can also ensure their focus remains on their learning. As parents and carers, my advice for the next four months is to do the following:

- Take an interest in what they are doing at home – You do not need to understand what they are learning, but taking an interest, asking questions, helps with their recall, their memory, and they also are being reassured that there is support at home.
- Ensure they have a quiet place to work and encourage routines at home too. Many Year 11 students start to spend longer revising at this point in the year and Parents/carers can help by ensuring sleep routines are monitored and their study environment is calm and clear.
- Spot any ineffective revision – Whatever they tell you, listening to music, having their phone, Air Pods in or easy access to social media is not going to help them!
- Make sure they are getting fresh air, plenty of water and nutritious food.



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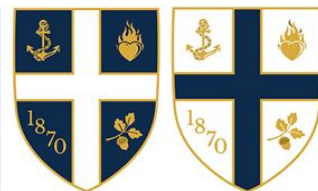
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- The smallest thing can result in arguments at home! Year 11 will show stress during the next 4 months in many ways – losing their temper when they can't find their lanyard at home, not listening because they are trying to process the learning in their minds, the smallest ask becoming a huge deal etc.

Many Year 11 students can become quieter, louder, more argumentative, and sometimes more forgetful during the next 4 months. Parents/Carers – This is normal!!! We know that your patience will potentially be tested over the next 4 months and again, this is normal! We are here to support you as well as your child. If you need any help at all, please contact us.

Finally, however rocky the next few months may be for our Year 11 families, we want to involve our parents/carers with celebrating how well every one of our year 11 students are doing. Before the students sit their first exam, we like to remind our students just how brilliant they are and how proud we are of them all. We would love our parents and carers to write a letter or a message to their Year 11 child(ren) that we will collate and then give to your child(ren) before their first exam, so they know how proud you are of them too.

If this is something you would like to do (and keep as a secret), please complete the information on the link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=jRQ4yPtKZE6KiNvdTBzWzi8GqjnzFjBMjO8ogQcirAhUNzZTRzY3NzRDNDYxN0xWQzIPVzNjN1ZYTl4u>

Thank you again for your support. I hope we can continue to work together over the next few months, and we will look forward to seeing you all at the Year 11 Graduation in June.

Yours Sincerely,

Ms R Kelly

Head of St Augustine's High School



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