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8 October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

English and Maths Mocks

As Year 11 approach their first examination window of the year with English and Mock assessments due to take place next week, I would like to take this opportunity to touch base and relay how pleased I have been with the way the year group have settled back into school life since the start of term. Although there are understandably some anxieties around the year ahead, the focus and motivation of the year group, in general, has been fantastic.

Throughout the term so far, students have been beginning to utilise the 7 key revision strategies shared with parents at the recent revision evening. It is important students continue to engage with these on a regular basis and develop an understanding of what works best for them on an individual level. I really hope the Mock assessments go well for all students next week and it is important for them to remember, whatever the result, that it is part of a journey across the year and that they will learn and develop from the experience.

Extra-curricular opportunities

Although examinations understandably remain a key focus for the year ahead, we also recognise the importance of Year 11 students continuing to fully engage with wider curriculum opportunities throughout the year. Not only does this support them developing a wider personal skill set, crucial to next steps beyond this year, it can also support personal wellbeing and help students cope with additional challenges across the year.

Within the Tutor curriculum this year, we have designated the final Friday of every fortnight to have a wellbeing focus. This week, students have been involved in a range of activities including yoga and meditation techniques alongside some mindfulness colouring activities. 'Keeping Active' is also one of our 7 key revision strands and, as a Physical Education teacher myself, I am a huge advocate of the mental as well as physical benefits of completing some form of activity every day. Linked to this, it has been great to see after school fixtures back up and running again for the first time in over 18 months. The highlight so far this term has been the Year 11 boys progressing in the district cup via an exhilarating penalty shoot-out victory over Southam. Well done to Mr Ingram and all involved.

Student Leadership

Another area of school life that has taken a real hit through the pandemic has been student leadership. This is a really important aspect of school life at NLS and an area where our students really do excel. With this in mind, it has been wonderful to see well over 50 students within the year group put themselves forward for a specific role this year. As well as College specific roles, there is going to be an opportunity for Year 11 students to support students in Years 7 and 8 in a mentoring capacity after half term. In previous years, this has proved to be a powerful experience for the mentors and mentees alike, allowing our students to support and develop others through past experiences within the school community.

Year 11 Parents' Evenings

Due to the importance of Year 11, we have two Parents' Evenings scheduled for all parents to meet subject staff and plan all the stages needed for your child to be successful next summer.

These are scheduled for **Monday 22 November 2021 and Monday 14 March 2022.**

We are currently seeking viewpoints from parents on whether you would like an opportunity to meet teachers face to face or through the school cloud online system. We have investigated a hybrid system but unfortunately, this is not currently possible. Please complete [this form](#) to share your feedback and we will inform you in the next briefing of the most popular decision. **Deadline for this feedback is Wednesday 13 October at 9am.**

Careers

Our Year 11 students are beginning to make some important decisions about their next steps. To help our Careers Advisor, Miss Milligan, target students who may need extra support and to offer relevant workshops to students please complete the following form with your child: [Year 11 Thinking Ahead Form](#) by 15th of October 2021.

If your child requires an urgent appointment please complete this section of the form, Miss Milligan will be organising these appointments after October half term.

If you have any questions please email careers@northleamington.co.uk and a member of the careers team will get back to you as soon as possible.

Other Key Dates

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to share some key dates for the year ahead:

Year 11 Prom- Friday 1 July 2022

GCSE results day- Thursday 25 August 2022

Additional details will be provided for all of these events closer to the time. In addition, specific dates for summer examinations will be shared once available.

Kind regards,



Mr J Foxon

Assistant Head Teacher, Year 11 Lead



Mr M Atkins

Senior Assistant Head Teacher