



21 March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 11 update

I write at to you as we approach the end of a long and demanding term for our Year 11 students. As the days grow warmer and longer, signalling the onset of spring, I am sure both students and you are feeling the pressure mounting with the approaching GCSE exams.

I would like to congratulate the vast majority of students who have put so much effort into their recent and final set of mock examinations. These are an important final monitoring check for the core subjects, prior experience tells us that students who act on the feedback they receive in lessons following these mocks continue to make progress all the way up to the summer examinations.

As I mentioned above, nearly all students were fully prepared and made the most of this final practice ahead of the summer exams. If we have any concerns about the application of your child during the recent mock week, we will be in contact with you separately. Listed below are a few areas of good practice that we will be reminded all students of in forthcoming assemblies I would ask you to reiterate to your child too:

- Full school uniform is expected for all exams, no items of non-school uniform
- If you are late, you disturb everyone, this is unacceptable
- Use all the time available, don't waste time with your head on the desk
- No communication at any time in the exam hall between students – this doesn't just mean talking, it also includes turning and making eye contact
- If you distract after a clear warning, you will be removed from the exam and may be disqualified
- Toilet breaks are only permitted in an emergency, again these disrupt everyone and should be avoided

Following the mock examinations, a final report will be available via the SIMs app. This will be available to access during the week beginning 25th March. I will write again after Easter break with a further update about the support and plan for the final weeks leading up to the examinations commencing from Thursday 9th May.

I look forward to seeing you at our GCSE Celebration Evening scheduled for Thursday 2nd May; and in the meantime, do contact us via our enquiries@st-edwards.poole.sch.uk email address if we can be of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Luke Kemish

Key Stage 4

Director of Learning