



Inspiring Learning, Achieving Excellence

Headteacher: Mr Adam Shelley MEd, BSc Hons, PGCE, NPQH

December 2022

Dear Parents

As we approach the end of a very long and tiring term, I would just like to take this opportunity to say how impressed I've been with how the vast majority of Year 11 have dealt with the challenges of their final year and the pressure of the first full round of mock exams. Most have shown great resilience and are now ready to face their final full term with clear personal goals and a desire to achieve the best results they can next summer.

It has been good to see a significant number of students picking up Housepoints for effort and achievement in lessons this term.

Congratulations should also go to the 13 students who despite the pressures of this term, and the persistent bugs and infections going round have maintained a 100% attendance record.

Updates:

Post-16 Options

Our Careers Advisor, Marc Truyens, has had a very busy term with a record number of students attending workshops on A Levels, College Courses and Apprenticeships. A large number of students have also benefited from individual careers interviews and ongoing support from Marc. The majority of students have been able to attend open evenings/days and have now submitted applications to their chosen post-16 provider. I've already started to receive lots of reference requests and many students have interviews booked for early in the New Year. Marc will continue to support students up to when they receive their results. Students can book an interview either directly with Marc or by letting me know. We will be picking up students who have not yet applied for anything early in January so that we can offer further support and help with applications.

Intervention and further support:

There will be a new timetable of subject intervention sessions published in the first week back in January. I would really encourage students to attend as many as they can in the build up to the next round of mock exams.

In addition, we are holding a Year 11 Success Evening on Monday 16 January (5.30pm to 7pm). As well as a general presentation in the hall (including input on English, Maths and Science), you will have the opportunity to attend short presentations in all your child's option subjects to get valuable information about how to improve and succeed in those areas. Further details of this



The Sir John Colfox Academy Trust part of the Minerva Learning Trust (Dorset) which is a charitable company Limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales with Company Number 8561222.

The Registered office is at: The Sir John Colfox Academy, The Ridgeway, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3DT
Tel: 01308 422291: Email: office@colfox.dorset.sch.uk

important evening will be sent out immediately after the holiday including a bespoke timetable for the evening.

Key Dates

Year 11 Success Evening – 16 January (5.30-7pm)

Year 11 Group Photo – 16 January (am) – Students will need to be in smart full uniform

February Mock Exams – 30 January to 9 February

Leavers Hoodies – available to order between February and mid-March. Students will be allowed to wear them in school from Easter.

Thorpe Park trip – Friday 31 March (letter to follow shortly)

Summer GCSE Exams – from 15 May to 20 June. The exams boards have a contingency day on 28 June – please do not arrange holidays until after this date as students would need to be available.

Year 11 Prom – Tuesday 27 June at Symondsbury Tithe Barn (7pm start). I will be asking for volunteers to join our Prom Committee to help plan the event. This is obviously a very important event for the year group and I know many of you will want to start thinking about dresses, suits and potential transport. We also understand this that this can be very expensive! The school does have an impressive stock of new and second hand dresses and suits (most only worn once) which students are welcome to have or borrow. We will give students more information about how they can view and try these on, after the February mock exams. If you are planning ahead and booking transport for the Prom, please check that it will be able to manage the long uneven track to the venue. I hope very much that, like last year, nearly every student in the year group will attend the Prom and have a memorable evening. However, we will be introducing a Prom Point system (as before the pandemic) from January. Students will need a certain number of points to secure their Prom ticket. I will explain how this will work in our first assembly next term.

GCSE Results Day – Thursday 24 August

With only 16 full school weeks left before the summer exams start, I am sure that many students will be starting to get a bit apprehensive about how little time there is left – this is perfectly normal and we would expect students to be feeling a little bit anxious about the forthcoming exams. Be assured that we will continue to support and help the students through this challenging time and please don't hesitate to contact me if you are worried.

I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and wish you all a safe and peaceful Christmas.

Yours sincerely



Graham Farrow
Head of Year 11