



TANFIELD
SCHOOL

HARD WORK | TRUST | FAIRNESS

9th September 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

The new Year 11 have had a fantastic first week back. Their attitude to learning, attendance and uniform have been exemplary. Can I thank you all for your support in helping this happen.

As I'm sure you are aware, our Year 11 results in the summer were outstanding. They were the best in the area and as things currently stand, the progress of our students is in the top 10% of schools across the country.

All of our students follow the full range of New Specification qualifications across the curriculum. These qualifications demand a great deal of knowledge and a high level of understanding. Thorough preparation for the large number of examinations students must sit during May and June 2022 is essential. It is vitally important that students prepare well to avoid stress and worry in this key academic year.

As we know, GCSE and equivalent examination courses are extremely important. Many students who underachieve in key curriculum areas at school have to spend time in college continuing to study and then re-sitting important qualifications to try and improve their grades. This can be essential to ensure students can access the courses of their choice and get the job they dream of when they enter the world of work. We don't set target grades for our students as we feel that it limits their potential. We ask that every student gives 100% effort 100% of the time and instead of gaining that grade 5, they could gain a grade 6, 7, 8 or 9. Regardless of the minimum grades colleges and apprenticeships require to gain entry to their courses, the higher GCSE grades a student gains, the more choices they have in their career.

On the day they collected their results, we asked our year 11s what things made the biggest impact on their results and every student said that **"Get Exam Ready"** and **"Champions Hour"** were key to their success.

"Get Exam Ready" is a comprehensive after school study programme which we expect all students to attend. After the completion of lessons at 3.05 pm and a 5 minute break, all students complete 50 minutes of revision in a key GCSE subject area. The timetable of after school support covers all areas of the curriculum. This ensures all students are supported with over 200 hours of revision as we prepare for examination success. This is our minimum expectation and it really helped our students achieve success. Hard work and thorough preparation really did make a huge difference.

We also have our voluntary **"Champions hour"**, which runs from 4-5pm. This is an opportunity for students to study independently in a computer room, supervised by a member of the Senior Leadership Team. This is particularly beneficial for those students who struggle to work at home, have noisy siblings who may distract them, or have a lack of access to IT.

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In addition to **“Get Exam Ready”** and the **“Champions hour”** support, we also expect students to revise and prepare for examinations independently at home. This is essential if students are to achieve higher grades. All subject areas offer study support materials for revision at home and we organise timetabled subject support during holiday weeks. When necessary, timetabled revision sessions will be sent to you for the October, February, Easter and May holidays. Attendance at these key sessions is expected and will determine the level of success your child achieves.

As I stated earlier, **hard work and thorough preparation do make a difference**. In addition to the vital exam revision and study support it is essential that students have a very good attendance to lessons. Students **must not take holidays away from school** at any point during year 11. It is essential that during May week of year 11 all students are preparing for examinations. The time for play is when all examinations are completed, and students can look forward to success in August 2023 when results day arrives.

“Get Exam Ready” and “Champions Hour” will begin on Monday 12th September. For any students who get a bus, there will be a 4pm bus to take them home after **“Get Exam Ready”** and a 5pm bus to take them home after **“Champions Hour”**.

Yours faithfully,

Jeff Allan
Assistant Headteacher

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