



20 September 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

Raising Achievement - Newsletter for Year 11

Welcome to the first edition of the Raising Achievement Newsletter. At The Deanes, we wish for the families of students to be fully aware of all aspects of school life to ensure the most rewarding learning experience for their child (*Promise #5*). The purpose of this newsletter is to communicate as effectively as possible with home, so that together, we can support student progress and achievement. A Twitter account has also been set up specifically for Year 11; please follow [@DeanesYear11](https://twitter.com/DeanesYear11) for regular reminders and updates.

Attendance and punctuality

Attendance to school is imperative for your child's progress and has a direct link to GCSE outcomes. 95% attendance is the minimum the Government regard as satisfactory attendance for a secondary school student yet this still equates to 10 school days missed which is 50 lessons. With just 22 weeks until the GCSE examinations begin, each lesson is vital and students should strive to attend school every day, and as far as possible make medical appointments after school. Where absence is unavoidable, students must ensure they catch up on all work missed. Similarly, lateness to school represents lost learning; 5 minutes lateness each day over the school year represents 3 school days lost!

Guest Speakers

This term we have a number of guest speakers organised for Year 11 students; each is intended to inspire students and enable them to make informed decisions about their studies and career Post-16. So far this half term we have had a visit from former Deanes student Hannah Chandler and a friend from Southend High School for Girls. They shared their experiences at a Grammar School Sixth Form and their intended career paths as they are about to embark on their studies in Biomedicine and Politics at university. We were also pleased to welcome back motivational speaker Mr Beezy who did a fantastic job of firing up the students for the term ahead. We look forward to welcoming guests from Procat, Chase Sixth Form and Southend High School for Girls in the near future.



Year 11 Information Evenings

We would like to invite you to attend two Information Evenings on **Tuesday 3 October** and **Tuesday 7 November** from **5.00 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.** At the first of these events you will be able to find out about the requirements for GCSEs and key dates throughout the next academic year. Staff from the English, Maths and Science departments will be available to answer any questions you may have. In addition, Mrs Croxon, our Careers Advisor, will outline the support Connexions can offer our students as they prepare for Post-16 study or employment.

The second of these events will focus on how you can best support your child in the run up to their Mock and summer exams, offering practical advice on effective study skills, revision techniques and managing exam stress.

To confirm your attendance at these evenings, please complete the online registration form at <https://tinyurl.com/Y11Deanes> by **Friday 29 September**.

Study Skills Programme

This term we will be working with students to develop their study skills and revision techniques. These sessions will take place on Week B Thursday, Lesson 5. We will be issuing each student with a 'study pack' including a guide to GCSE study skills, revision cards and highlighters. We hope that this encourages students to begin their revision now, and develop good study habits before the Mock exams. A schedule of subject specific revision and intervention sessions will be published shortly.

Mentoring

Following the success of last year's mentoring scheme, each student in Year 11 will be allocated a mentor for the academic year. The role of the mentor is to work closely with the student and their family in order to support academic progress and achievement. Mentoring sessions include informal catch-ups with the student during the school day as well as more formal meetings where targets are set and progress is reviewed. A letter outlining further details of the mentoring scheme will be sent out in due course.

Mock Examinations

In order to help prepare your child for their GCSE examinations in the summer, students will sit a series of Mock exams between the 20 of November and the 4 of December. Students will be issued with individual exam timetables detailing the dates and times of their exams. Unless students are sitting a Mock exam, they will be expected to attend their normal timetabled lessons as usual during this period.

Year 11 Parents' Evening

Students will be issued with personalised envelopes containing their Mock examination results at Parents' Evening. They will not be told their results prior to this as we wish to replicate as much as possible the experience of Results Day next August. Year 11 Parents' Evening will, therefore, be a key evening for parents to talk to subject teachers about academic progress.

I hope that you have found the information in this newsletter helpful and look forward to working with you to support your child's progress.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'C Corp', written in black ink.

Miss C Corp
Raising Standards Leader