



May 2023

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**Welcoming Year 10 into Year 11 – May 2023**

Dear Parent and Pupil of Year 10,

Principal: Mrs N Waker

It is with great pleasure that I write to pupils and their parents at this time to warmly welcome Year 10 to begin their Year 11 studies and preparation for their final examinations, almost exactly a year from now. The final year of studies will absolutely fly by and before they know it they will be moving onwards to their Post-16 provisions and we will spend the next year working together through home and school to ensure that each and every member of the year group has the opportunity to be successful in both their studies, but also in their development and preparation for life after school.

Over the next few weeks Year 10 will gradually transition into Year 11 and with that transition comes a whole raft of changes. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of some of these so that we can work together for this crucial year. Please note that, as always, timings and strategies may change depending on the needs of the individuals and the year group as a whole and as such specific details cannot be provided at this time.

Some key dates:

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May** – Year 10 Supporting Success evening. Please join us for some key information about the transition to Year 11 and the upcoming PPE exams.

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June** – Year 10 lunchtime changes to the **last lunch – 1.15-1.45pm**, breaktime remains the same. Please note, breaktime will change to the last break once current Year 11 finish their final exam.

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June** – Assembly from Mr Gilder, Mrs Walker and Mrs Easter – Welcome to Year 11.

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June** – Year 10 officially become 'New Year 11'. PPE exams start.

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June** – Recovery curriculum begins for New Year 11. Please note that from this date New Year 11 will be required to stay in school until 3.45pm Tuesday-Thursday.

From Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June, Year 10 will be referred to as Year 11 and will be expected to act as such in all matters.

### **Ethos and Attitude**

Year 11 are, of course, our oldest year group and as such act as role models for the wider school population. We will have prefects and senior prefects and these will be selected from Year 11 via an application process. This will be valuable experience for those pupils, particularly when applying for colleges and university and the successful candidates will gain some fantastic opportunities to enhance their CV and contribute to the school experience for a wide range of pupils.

We believe in a recognition culture and as such, pupils who engage fully in our intervention programmes, those that conduct themselves in the appropriate manner, and pupils who meet our attendance, behaviour and punctuality standards will also have further privileges and

opportunities throughout the year. Of course, the end of the year will be intensive and pupils who have worked hard, attended well and met all of our expectations will be invited to join us at our end of year event – the Prom!

### **Prefects and Senior Prefects**

Over the next few weeks we will begin our application process to be a prefect. Further details to follow for these privileged positions within the student council.

### **Interventions and Support**

The whole point of schools is that pupils come first and our unrelenting, guiding principle is to ensure that we do *'everything we can do'* to guarantee your child the best GCSE grades possible.

In order to support pupils to achieve their maximum potential, extra Intervention sessions have been put into place throughout the academy day which focus on Non-examination assessments, exam skills and revision. The first of these planned to be introduced **in the week beginning 19<sup>th</sup> June** will be our **Recovery Curriculum**, this is an additional lesson at the end of the school day from 2.45pm-3.45pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Each pupil will have an individual timetable tailored to maximise their grades in a number of subjects.

Pupils will have an allocated intervention each of these nights and families should make plans for their child to be in school **until 3.45pm**. Please note that these sessions are compulsory and as such the timing of the school day will be different from this point forwards for your child.

At various times across the academic year we will also introduce a **Period 0** session, this is before school from 8am. Period 0 will run slightly differently in that they are not formally timetabled, and run as drop-in clinics with a focus purely on Exams. These will operate on an invitation basis with colleagues working on priorities for small groups or individuals.

In addition to these extra sessions there will also be small group tutoring for many of our pupils in both Maths and English. These are sessions in which targeted pupils receive specialist support in order to address key areas to boost grades.

### **Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs)**

Most subjects are now assessed fully by terminal examinations at the end of the course. Therefore, it is crucial that all pupils are trained and prepared for this type of assessment. With this in mind, throughout Year 11 there are frequent PPEs. Sometimes these are conducted as individual subjects, and at other times will run as a full examination window. Pupils are expected to take all PPE exams exactly as they would for the real exams, in the examination halls with invigilators. We also expect the pupils to prepare for all of these exams as if they were the real assessment so that we can accurately track their performance and target our interventions accordingly.

We will, on several occasions, follow these up with Mock Results Days where pupils will collect their results just like they will on the actual results day.

The first of these examination windows will take place from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June, your child has already been informed of this and subjects have been working towards preparing the pupils for this important assessment point.

### **Communications with Parents**

At Horbury Academy we believe that a successful partnership between home and school is vital to the success of each individual pupil. Schools in which teachers, parents and pupils work together tend to be the most successful and we want parents to feel like they are well informed both in terms of the progress being made by their child, but also to help Parents gain

the insight into the qualifications themselves and how to help their child around the time of exams.

As such there will be frequent letters home, reports tracking their progress and evenings in which parents can find out how to support their child. Most communications will be sent home via MCAS. Please ensure that at least one parent/carer has downloaded the App and have logged in.

In addition to the usual parent's evenings there will also be at least two further evenings designed to help you support your child at crucial times throughout the year and beyond:

**HTHYCS Evening** which we will calendar prior to the November PPE window will focus very much on 'How to Help Your Child Succeed'. During the evening there will be an opportunity to listen to a briefing from key staff, including subject leaders for Maths, English and Science and indeed about how parents/carers can support pupils throughout the remainder of the school year as we move towards the real examination period.

**Preparing to Succeed Evening** which we will calendar around January will focus on revision skills and support that can be offered to pupils as they approach the examinations and will include tips and techniques to help at home.

### **Careers and Guidance**

Pupils are strongly encouraged to start making some decisions about their Post-16 destination as soon as possible. Legislation now requires for all pupils to remain in education **until** they are 18, this could be through a variety of routes such as Further Education – A-Levels, Vocational Studies; or via Apprenticeships.

To assist with these choices, we will run a variety of careers-based events throughout the year including visits from and to local Post-16 providers, Careers Fairs, Assemblies and Careers lessons.

### **Exams and Information**

It is never too early to start discussing exams and throughout the next 12 months Year 11 pupils will receive all the information and guidance to support them through the examination period. By the time the actual exams start in the summer of 2024 pupils will feel reassured and confident in the process so that they can concentrate on the preparation of their studies.

### **A Final Message**

Everyone at Horbury Academy is dedicated to ensure that every pupil has their potential reached and where possible, exceeded. With your support I am confident that our new Year 11s can continue the upward trend in results, achieve the best possible grades for them as individuals and grow into successful citizens in the future.

It is my privilege to work with such wonderful young people and I look forward to sharing their last year with them and working closely with each and every one of them.

Yours sincerely,



Mr B Gilder  
Vice Principal