

22 January 2024

St. Margaret's

Church of England Academy
"Achievement by faith and work"

Executive Headteacher: Mrs J Sing

Dear Y11 Parents/Carers,

We would like to share with you some important information about the term ahead. As you are aware, this is a critical time for Y11 students as they prepare for the summer examinations and the next stages of their educational or employment journey. It is therefore essential that they have access to quality support and guidance which will enable them to perform to the best of their ability.

'Preparing to Perform' Plan

As part of their welcome-back assembly at the start of term, we met with all Y11 students to share the week-by-week plans and issued a visual 'roadmap' of key dates and activities which will support them in preparing for examinations.

Please see below for a more detailed outline of key dates, activities and events coming up.

Date	Focus	Description
W/c Monday 15 th	Student Voice	Students to complete a questionnaire with the aim of
January	Activity	identifying their pastoral and academic needs and how confident they feel as they approach examinations. Feedback will be used to inform the Preparing to Perform plan.
W/c Monday 15 th January	Target Grades	Students will be issued with target grades so that they set personal goals and liaise with subject teachers if any support is required.
W/c Monday 15 th January	Revise to Five	These sessions enable students to revise in a quiet space, supervised by staff.
W/c Monday 15 th	Subject	These sessions are teacher-led and target specific
January	Accelerate Sessions	students who may require additional intervention. Students are informed directly by subject teachers.
On-going	Pastoral Guidance and Support assemblies	Students will receive weekly targeted sessions on a range of topics including: Goals; Physical Activity; Nutrition; Rest and Recovery; Sleep and Mental Energy.
W/c Monday 22 nd January	Form Time Revision	Students will be taught a range of revision strategies in form. They will be able to select which strategies they prefer and apply them across different subjects.

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W/c Monday 5 th February	Mock Examinations	Students will sit selected papers in each of their subjects. This mock series will be much shorter than the first one to ensure that the majority of this term is focused on curriculum delivery.
Wednesday 7 th February 6.00pm – 8.00pm	Sixth Form Open Evening	All students are invited to the open evening. The Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form will deliver a short presentation and students will then be able to explore the subjects and provision on offer. Careers Guidance will also be available.
Half Term W/c Monday 12 th February	Half-Term Subject Accelerate Sessions	Targeted students will be invited to these sessions. Parents will be informed.
Monday 19 th February	Breakfast Revision Sessions	Targeted students will be invited to these sessions.
Thursday 22 nd February	'Ace your Exams' Elevate session.	All students will attend a workshop with the external provider, 'Elevate.' Elevate have worked with over 2200 schools and specialise in delivering high impact studyskills workshops.
Thursday 7 th March 6.00pm – 7.30pm	'Preparing to Perform' Evening Event	Students and Parents are invited to school for a range of activities to ensure they are feeling confident and 'ready to perform' for the summer examinations. Key exam information will be shared and students will receive their mock examination results. They will then attend targeted subject sessions which will outline effective ways to study and revise in that particular subject. Parents will also be provided with help and advice as to how they may support students at home and throughout the remainder of the term.
Tuesday 19 th March	'The Finishing Line' Elevate Session	A final study skills workshop will be delivered. This will be a bespoke session planned in conjunction with the school and based on the needs of the year group.
Tuesday 26 th March	Y11 Parents' Evening	This will be an opportunity to meet with subject teachers and discuss student progress and attitude to learning.
Easter Break W/c Tuesday 2 nd April	Easter Subject Accelerate Sessions	Targeted students will be invited to these sessions. Parents will be informed.
Thursday 9 th May	Exams commence	
End of June/July	Celebration Event	More information will follow.

Attendance

As we start the new term, may we remind you of the importance of good attendance.

Good attendance is important because:

- Research shows a direct link between under-achievement and absence below 95%
- Regular attenders make better progress, both socially and academically.
- · Regular attenders find school routines, schoolwork and friendships easier to cope with
- Regular attendance allows students to form friendships, engage in extracurricular activities, and develop a sense of belonging within their school community.

The consequence of poor attendance:

- Students with high absence rates are at a significant disadvantage, as they miss out on valuable learning opportunities.
- When students are absent, they miss vital explanations, demonstrations, and activities that improve understanding.
- Poor attendance could negatively impact students' performance in exams, limiting their opportunities for higher education and future employment.
- Colleges, Universities, and employers often consider attendance records as a reflection of an individual's commitment.
- Frequent absences isolate students and can potentially lead to feelings of loneliness, and low selfesteem. They may struggle to build supportive relationships with friends and miss out on the emotional support that school environments can provide.

We will continue to communicate with students and parents about up-an-coming events by sending reminders via Arbor. Login details were sent to parents last week but please contact admin@stmargaretsacademy.com if you are having any issues and require support.

We look forward to welcoming you to the parent events over the next term.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J. Sing

Executive Headteacher