



ST. ANNE'S
R.C. VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

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November 2021

Dear Parents

The following letter outlines much important information for Year 11 parents.

Overview of the class of 2022

Before I outline some important information and dates below, I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words about the 'Class of 2022'. The reality is that they have had a difficult time over the past few years and I do recognise, through no fault of their own. Despite this, the majority have shown great resilience, great character and are conducting themselves in a very mature manner since starting back to school in September. I am praying that the next few months will bring some stability to their last year at St Anne's. It is important that we give deliver the same message to our great pupils, your great children. That message is simple: *we need to look forward with optimism and positivity*. This is the best way to succeed!

Enclosed is your child's report

Firstly, I am pleased to enclose your child's report. Their 'Working at Grades' are their teacher's assessment of what grade they are *currently* working at. There is also information on their effort and engagement within lessons, with homework and if they are following our SACRED values. There will be a further opportunity to discuss the report with their class teachers at parents evening next week.

Exams in December/January 2022

Importantly, there are exams in January too. For pupils studying Food Preparation and Nutrition, there is a practical examination during the **week beginning 6th December**. Further details will follow in due course. For pupils that study Sports Studies and/or Health and Social, there is an exam on **Monday 10th January**.

Exams in May/June

As you are aware, it is the Governments intentions that pupils will sit their GCSE's next May/June, albeit with minor adjustments. We will share these adjustments with both yourself and your child when applicable to do so but it is important to state that, as a school, we are working on this premise. It is therefore vital that your child is working hard at home to prepare themselves for these exams. The following information is to support you and your child to maximise their grades next summer. It is these grades that will open up more opportunities post-16.

Year 11 Parents Evening

As I write this letter the plan is to have a face-to-face parents evening on **Thursday 11th November from 4pm to 7pm**. However, to ensure the safety of the evening I will have to ask for the following.

- ✓ It is compulsory for parents to wear a mask unless medically exempt
- ✓ Parents complete a LFT test before coming to school
- ✓ Only one parent is permitted to attend
- ✓ Any parent with symptoms, please do not attend
- ✓ Please stick to time limits as per the instructions of the teacher
- ✓ Teachers will be more spread out around the building
- ✓ Please socially distance when in the school





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Mock Exams

These take place between **22nd November and 3rd December** and are an important part of the Year 11 calendar. They are an important milestone in preparation for their GCSE exams, allow the teachers to address any gaps in learning and form the basis of college applications.

Revision: Key Messages

GCSE exams are not easy, and the reality is that Covid has disrupted the education of your child. However, it is crucial that your child focuses on the present and the future in order to maximise their grades. The following advice and tips are to support you and your child over the coming months. Only by working together will we maximise your child's grades next summer.

- **Amount of revision and/or homework each night:** I understand every child is different but completing *at least* two hours of work each night is expected. This may include homework set, independent revision or a combination of both. This could be split into 'chunks', for example 30 or 45 minutes with a 5-minute break.
- **Which subjects to revise?** From my experience, pupils tend to revise the subjects they either like and/or the subjects they achieve in. However, it's important to note that pupils need to revise ***all*** their subjects if they want to be successful.
- **Knowledge Organisers** are available as hard copies to pupils and electronically on the website. These detail all the content that your child needs to remember. To support memory of this vast amount of information, the St Anne's Independent Learning Strategies are also available on the website. These are activities that pupils can complete alone or with parental support to help them to recall and remember information.
- **Timetable:** Encourage your child to have a routine and a revision timetable that will help them with this. The sooner a routine is established, the more likely they are to learn, and this will build to confidence. Help your child 'stick' to routines.
- **A quiet place:** Revision is about 'quality' as well as the time. It is not advised that your child revises whilst they have their phone as it can cause distractions. Furthermore, if your child is revising on the computer, ensure that they are not distracted by watching music videos etc. A quiet place with no distractions is best.
- **Revision Guides** are a great resource and you can support your child by ensuring that they have one for each subject. Ensure you know which exam board your child is sitting and possibly purchase revision guides.
- **School Holidays:** Due to the amount of content and time pressures I recommend that your child does a few hours of work and revision each day during the holidays. This will, again hopefully, build their confidence and reduce stress.

Covid and ABSENCE

If a pupil has Covid symptoms, they must not attend school. Instead, parents must arrange for their child to have a PCR test as a matter of urgency. If the result of this test is negative, the pupil should return to school straight away. If the pupil tests positive for Covid you must inform the school immediately. The pupil should then isolate at home for ten days after the symptoms first appeared. They should return to school on the eleventh day. Pupils who are well enough to work should log onto class charts and complete the work set for them by their class teachers. Completed work can be uploaded by pupils online through the class chart website.





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Support

I do not underestimate the stress on your child over the next few months. It is imperative that your child is looking after themselves, have adequate rest and sleep and a bit of *'me time'*. This recuperation is important and includes ensuring that they keep healthy. However, as a school we also provide the following support

- **In School Support:** The staff at St Anne's are working incredibly hard for your child in this most important year. These include their subject teachers, their Form Tutor and Miss Baird, the Head of Year 11. If you have a subject concern, please contact the subject teacher directly. 'Sooner rather than later' is the mantra here so we can rectify quicker.
- **Intervention:** Some pupils will be identified as needing 'intervention' by their subject Teachers. I ask that parents please support the teachers by ensuring your child not only attends these, but is also actively learning for example, by taking part and asking questions.
- **At Home Support:** There are simple things that you can do at home to support. For example, speak to your child and ask them questions like *'what did you learn today'* or *'do you want me to test you on what you have learnt tonight'*. This shows that you care and will provide an opportunity for you to praise their work. On that note, if your child works hard, give them a little 'treat'. This should have the effect of motivating them further.

Stress

It is a fact that this will be a stressful time. However, feeling 'stressed' at this time is a normal reaction, but it is important to keep things in perspective. From experience, most stress stems from not doing the work until the 'last minute' and/or failure to do sufficient work over time. This is the reality. If your child is following the key messages above, confidence levels should increase as they know more. When confidence increases, stress decreases. As a parent you can help lower stress levels by praising and encouraging your child. In school we will be teaching pupils strategies to deal with stress and anxiety and offer practical support.

In school, and indeed beyond, pupils need to ensure that they have appropriate **resilience** to succeed. Getting questions wrong is acceptable. Not understanding all work in class is acceptable. Not achieving the grades you wanted [or worked for] in the Mocks is acceptable etc. However, where this occurs, pupils must **'bounce back'** and persevere. **Resilience** is a vital skill to develop over the coming months. Being positive, keeping going and believing that your hard work will pay off are the key ingredients of success.

Behaviour and Attitude to Learning

The attitude to learning from the vast majority of Year 11 pupils at St Anne's is good. A massive well done to these pupils who have endured several years of disruption to their education. It is my expectation that Year 11 are highly focused on their studies, learning in lessons and working hard at home. Pupils with a positive attitude to learning have the drive and determination to do well.

Sadly, a few pupils are 'disrupting' the learning of others. For avoidance of doubt this is not acceptable and will not be tolerated. It simply is not fair that a very small number of pupils disrupt the learning of others. Over the next few weeks and months I will speak to parents of Year 11 pupils who are not conforming to the high expectations that have been set. **I can't overstate the importance of hard work to get the GCSE qualifications that will provide many opportunities post-16.**



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Prom

We are planning to have a Prom next year. This is a night of celebration of 5 successful years at St Anne's. It is a time to reward pupils for attendance, behaviour and hard work put in during the run up and completion of the GCSE exams and to reflect and celebrate one last time with the year group that is, the Class of 2022. However, parents should note that **I reserve the right not to allow** any pupil to attend the prom or to withdraw the invitation if there is any poor behaviour up to and during the exam period. From the date of this letter, it is highly probable that if your child gets excluded then they will not be invited to the Prom. Pupils will be informed of this in their next Year 11 assembly.

Finally...

I can say that the staff at St Anne's are working really hard to ensure that your child achieves their potential. As I have said above, pupils need to be optimistic and keep focused. In essence, they need to believe in themselves. At school, we will try and instil this into them. At home I ask that you do the same thing. Giving up is not an option. As parents, I ask that you ensure that they are working hard at home and that you are encouraging a strong work ethic. Working together during the months ahead will ensure that your child's individual grades are what they deserve.

Yours faithfully

Mr Logue
Executive Headteacher

