



Brownhills Ormiston Academy

Deakin Avenue, Brownhills, Walsall,
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Tel: 01543 452886

Email: postbox@brownhillsoa.co.uk

Web: www.brownhillsoa.co.uk

Principal: Mrs A Lloyd

RD/CD/PLET103

06 July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers of new Year 11 students,

Important Update – New Year 11

We last wrote to you in March 2023 with information about the remainder of the academic year for Year 10 students. It is now an exciting time as students have moved to their new tutor groups and graduated to become the new Year 11. We would like to communicate with parents/carers so everyone is aware of the changes for students and the ways in which you can support at home to ensure that your child achieves success at the end of Year 11.

Attendance and Punctuality

Attending school every day has the most impact on any student's chances of success. Every time a lesson is missed, crucial learning opportunities are missed. We urge you not to book any holidays in term time. Please do not allow your child to miss school as any absence has a very negative impact on your child's progress.

Form time begins every morning at 8:40am, so students need to be on site by 8:30am and outside form rooms by 8:38am so they can enter and begin working from 8:40am. The Year 11 tutorial programme is centred around additional intervention for English and Maths, so this learning time will be valuable.

The official exam season takes place from the beginning of May 2024 until the end of June 2024. Please do not book holidays and any weekday daytime events during this period that could interfere with your child's exam schedule.

The November 2023 and March 2024 mock exam periods are extremely important for your child. The results support students to know their strengths and areas to improve in before they sit their final exams. Missing any of these exams puts your child at a disadvantage compared to their peers.

Please also note that there is no study leave at any point in the academic year 2023-24. Year 11 students will attend the academy as normal for the duration of their mock exams and the summer exam period 2024.

Home Learning

Home learning makes a significant difference to the success of students on examination courses. In Year 11, the Government has recommended about 2 - 2.5 hours of home learning per day. This can be through work set by teachers, but also through independent study, access to online resources, using revision guides and completing past papers. At BOA, Year 11 students receive weekly home learning in every subject. This is recorded in their planner. Please ensure that this home learning is completed and that you sign your child's planner on a weekly basis.



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Advance notice of the Year 11 GCSE Pre-Public (Mock) Exams – beginning Monday 13th November 2023

Year 11 students will sit a second round of 'mock' examinations in every subject they take. These exams will begin on Monday 13th November 2023 and last for around two weeks.

It is vital that preparation for these exams is thorough and taken seriously by students as the results are the estimation of likely performance in final exams and are used to give references for employment and post-16 courses. Most importantly, the results inform the next steps for teachers to plan lessons that will meet the needs of all students.

These exams are the chance for students to show the progress they have made from their Year 10 PPE1 exams. The work currently happening in lessons and at home is contributing to preparing for these exams. **Students will only have 8 weeks of lessons to prepare for these exams from September, so the final 2 weeks in July 2023 are extremely important.**

The final PPE (mock) examinations will then run from 26th February – 8th March. This will be the final opportunity for students to attempt formal mock examinations and to receive detailed feedback on gaps in knowledge and improvements required before the external examinations begin in May 2024.

Holiday Revision / Catch-Up Classes

We are offering help, support, and revision during school holidays, which will run in October 2023 half term, February 2024 half term, Easter 2024 holiday and May 2024 half term.

We will also schedule English and Maths boosters on some Saturdays in May 2024 and June 2024 to support specific exam papers in both subjects.

A timetable and letter for each holiday will be sent to you separately with detailed information.

After school booster/revision classes

We will run after school classes, which will support your child's studies and enable them to revise and deepen their knowledge and skills in most exam subjects. We will inform you of the final schedule for the Autumn term in September 2023 after the summer break. This academic year we scheduled for the Year 11 coach to pick students up at 4pm when after school classes were taking place, and this arrangement enabled students who catch the coach to participate in all after school classes. Detailed arrangements will be confirmed in September.

All additional classes were very well attended by Year 11 students this year. Our data tracking clearly showed that pupils who regularly attended after school and other additional classes achieved higher mock grades than students who attended intermittently or not at all.



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Academic Reports

Please be aware that at various stages throughout the next year, students may be placed onto an academic report to track their work, progress, home learning and effort in lessons. These reports are a useful tool in diagnosing academic issues that we need to address to allow students to make as much progress as possible. They also allow parents/carers to see how well their child is doing daily. The first round of these academic reports will be issued to some students this week.

Important Dates

Monday 30th October, Tuesday 31st October and Wednesday 1st November – **October Half Term Holiday Classes**

Tuesday 10th October 2023 – **Year 11 Prepare to Perform Evening**, 5-6:30pm – all Year 11 students and parents/carers are welcome. This is an event to help support parents/carers to support their child. In order to plan effectively, please RSVP to Mrs Thompson-Giles (Students Services) by emailing HThompson-Giles@brownhillsoa.co.uk to confirm your attendance at the Prepare to Perform evening. You will be written to separately with the details for this event.

Monday 13th November 2023 – **Year 11 Pre-Public (Mock) Examinations** start – approximately two weeks.

Thursday 11th January 2024 – **Year 11 Parents' Evening**, 4-6pm. We strongly encourage all Year 11 students and their parents/carers to attend this evening to receive information about progress in every subject. You will receive details separately.

Monday 26th February – **Year 11 Pre-Public (Mock) Examinations** start – approximately two weeks.

Tuesday 9th April 2024 – Final **Year 11 Prepare to Perform Evening**, 5-6:30pm

Useful Links

You may find the following links useful as you support your child:

[Student-and-Parent-Guide-for-Revision-7.9.22.pdf \(rivoagency.com\)](#)

[Wellbeing-Support-at-Home-12.9.22.pdf \(rivoagency.com\)](#)

Thank you

Thank you for your continued support of the academy. At this critical time for your child, it is essential that we have a strong working relationship between the academy and home. In September 2023, we will write to you again with reminders of the contents of this letter and any new information that you may require.



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We all want the very best outcomes for every student, so teachers and parents/carers working together will offer your child the support and encouragement they need. We look forward to seeing you during the Year 11 events and as we meet to discuss your child's progress.

The primary contact for Year 11 parents/carers is Mrs Mitchell (Head of Year 11), the Year 11 form tutor team and individual subject teachers. If you have any questions or need additional support, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will be happy to help.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Doodson'.

Mr Doodson
Assistant Principal