



Brownhills Ormiston Academy

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7th September 2026

Letter to Parents: Academic and Behaviour Expectations for Year 11 Students

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well. As we begin the new academic year, I am writing to share my expectations and outline the crucial support your child will need as they enter Year 11 – their final year at Brownhills Ormiston Academy.

In July, you received a general end of year letter that is for all students. This letter is specific to our new Year 11 students, the class of 2027.

Since I last wrote to you, we have now received the GCSE examination results for the class of 2026. These results broke all records at our school and put us amongst the highest performing schools in Walsall. The results were achieved due to the culture at our school, the determination of our staff and the exceptional hard work of the students. These results mean that these students leave Brownhills with their heads held high and progress confidently onto post 16 education.

One Chance at Education

Your child is now entering the most important year of their secondary education. I am completely clear that our students have one chance at their education – and we all have a duty to make it count. This applies to school staff, families, and most importantly, to our students themselves.

The class of 2027 represents a fantastic year group with incredible potential. The clear ambition at Brownhills is that students must leave Brownhills Ormiston Academy with the skills, attributes and academic qualifications to enjoy a life of choice and opportunity.

Academic Excellence Requires Effort

Achievement will not be possible without **significant effort both at school and at home**. By now, your child should be significantly increasing their work in English and Mathematics to ensure they are aiming for at least Grade 5 in both subjects when they sit their final examinations in summer 2027. Many students will clearly be striving for Grades 6-9, but you must be clear that **the best post-16 providers are looking for a minimum of a Grade 5 in English and Mathematics**. This applies to sixth forms, colleges and apprenticeships equally. Students will also need to balance their studies across all subjects that they are taking to ensure they are working towards a Grade 5 or above in every subject.

Your child will need to:

- Work extremely hard in every lesson, every day
- Complete all home learning tasks
- Revise previous topics on an ongoing basis and take responsibility for their revision timetable
- Start intensive preparation now for long-term success

The journey is unlikely to be easy, but it will be worth it when it results in academic success. This will require hours of work, and this may sometimes be uncomfortable. That is perfectly normal for any student working towards examinations and we must all encourage Year 11 to be resilient and to persevere.

Attendance: Non-Negotiable

My expectation is that staff, families and students are taking every moment of their education seriously. This means that students must attend school every day. All Year 11 students must aim for 100% attendance.

Daily expectations:

- Arrive by 8:25am to benefit from our free breakfast
- Be at their Personal Tutor room by 8:35am
- PT time begins promptly at 8:40am. For Year 11, this will be Period Zero, targeting specific Mathematics and Science improvements which will directly impact GCSE results.

Additional Support Sessions

Students will be expected to attend Lesson 6 between 3:10-4:00pm when instructed. Mr Yates will release a calendar which makes these dates clear. All Year 11 students must attend Lesson 6. These sessions are designed to provide targeted support, and students will be expected to work hard during these times. It is completely clear that the students who attended Year 11 Lesson 6 last year made brilliant progress and far outperformed their peers.

- Mondays: **Science**
- Wednesdays: **English**
- Thursdays: **Mathematics**

Please note that Thursdays is Mathematics. The Year 10 mock examination results make it clear that our new Year 11 have the furthest distance to travel in GCSE Mathematics, and this should be a focus for every student.

For students that get the coach, please be aware that the coach service will run at 4pm at the end of Lesson 6 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Students who do not attend Lesson 6 will not be permitted to use this coach as we will only be financially subsidising the Year 11 coach for students demonstrating their hard work and dedication to their academic studies.

GCSE Mathematics

It is vital that all students are now actively working to close the gaps in their knowledge and skills in Mathematics. Please ensure that your child has the correct scientific calculator and that they are bringing this to school every day.

Home learning will be critical for success in GCSE Mathematics. Our Maths team are clear that the only way to revise Maths is to 'do Maths'. There will be Sparx Maths home learning and there will be paper-based home learning, which will often be sections of a past paper. It is now absolutely possible to complete home learning using AI. I must make clear that this is completely pointless. Students need to actually think in order to progress, so using AI to ensure home learning is finished is a waste of everyone's time. Please check that your child is completing all Mathematics home learning properly every week.

Rewards and Consequences

Students who work hard, do their best, attend school, complete their homework, behave well and meet academy expectations will be invited to:

- Year 11 Prom
- Year 11 Shirt Signing
- Year 11 Final Celebration Assembly

However, students who do not follow our values and do not demonstrate exemplary behaviour will not be invited to these occasions. **I am making this clear now so that no-one is in any doubt about the expectations at Brownhills this year.** I will not accept any excuses for poor behaviour at our school and families should make absolutely certain that their children understand the potential consequences of not meeting expectations.

Upcoming Assessments

The next set of mock examinations will take place in November 2026. These examinations are crucial preparation for the final GCSE examinations and will help identify areas where additional support is needed. They are the most likely predictors of future achievement, and they will directly impact the sets, PT groups and intervention groups that your child is in.

Family Support

We urgently need your ongoing support in the following ways:

- Actively discuss your child's academic studies
- Ensure your child completes all required work every week
- Support their attendance and punctuality and do not accept any excuses about not attending school or being late
- Support by ensuring your child is in full uniform every day
- Maintain high expectations at home, including about the time that Year 11 go to sleep, being very aware of the consequences of students being on mobile phones and games consoles late into the evening.

- Fully support academy consequences and decisions knowing that these are made in the best interests of your child and for their future.

Please do not allow your child to make excuses for any poor behaviour or underperformance. Year 11 have one chance at their education. I will not make any excuses for students, and we all must accept that neither will sixth forms, colleges, apprenticeships, future employers and the world of work.

Staff Contacts

Your child's Year 11 Personal Tutor should be your first point of contact. Our Year 11 PT team this year is:

- 11MW – Mr M Windsor
- 11LW – Mr L Woolf
- 11GB – Miss A Gilbert
- 11MK – Mrs M Kumar
- 11SM – Mr S McAleenan-Marks
- 11RM – Mrs R McGowan

Head of Year 11: **Miss V Hobday** – all behaviour, attendance and pastoral support queries.

Director of Safeguarding & Wellbeing: **Mr J Shaw** – all safeguarding queries and concerns

Senior Leader KS4 & Achievement Director – Year 11: **Mrs J Adams** – all academic performance queries.

Our Commitment

We will give every support that we can. Results will come from your child's dedication and determination, supported by your encouragement at home. We must ensure that students achieve their full potential. Together, we can and will make this happen. A fantastic set of results will be the ultimate reward for all this hard work.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your child's education.

Yours sincerely,



Mr R T Doodson
Headteacher