

WEEK 2 - Friday 16 September 2022

Welcome back to all our Year 11 students and their families.

It feels like the last year 10 Blog was not that long ago, but how different things are now.

We have arrived back and quickly noticed a changing approach from the Year 11s. On the Multi Use Game Area (MUGA) last week, students were arriving looking smart, appearing organised, and had grown up quickly through the summer. When discussing how they were all feeling there were many comments of how 'Scary it is to think now is the last first day of their school life.' This was a strange concept to discuss with them yet lovely to see they have realised how important this year will be for each of them.

In the first assembly we discussed the importance of routines and the continuing expectations of our students, with an emphasis on them now being the best role models for our younger students. We had a big emphasis on two of our values: Kindness and Respect, exploring how they are easy to demonstrate and the positive impact they will have on them as individuals whilst creating a wonderful community in school.

This week I discussed Resilience and spoke about how we have seen a great degree of resilience from King Charles in the past week and discussed how we could take some inspiration from his ability to pull back into shape and move on (even in the most difficult of times.) I talked about the way this year may feel like we are on the biggest Roller Coaster of our lives as we navigate highs and lows. To conclude, I reminded them that we have a fabulous team of staff in school, inspirational tutors, and Mrs Green and I are also there to help them.

Calendared events coming up:

- Stress Management Workshop (with Humber Outreach)- This has been moved from 19 September to 17 October due to the Bank Holiday next week.
- 21 September- 'How to Revise' P6 in F04.
- Several subjects are also offering Coursework P6 session or early revision after school between 3-4pm.

Whilst many students are feeling the pressure already, please remind them to speak to their tutor or Mrs Green and me for support. We are always available to support them.

Stay safe and take care.

Mrs Todd

Head of Year 11

Mrs Green

Assistant Head of Year 11

WEEK 4 - Friday 30 September 2022

Hello to all our year 11 students and their families,

It has continued, as we would expect, to be a busy half term with lots happening for our year group in tutor time and lessons. Students are immersing themselves with commitment, determination, and

drive to make the most of what we are offering them in this pivotal year. Mrs Green and I are so proud of them.

In tutor time we have started to have more focus on future pathways. The week started with Miss Lawes, our Careers Lead, delivering the assembly and discussing how to start preparing for life beyond year 11. The support in school will offer them information about college open events, completing applications, and ensuring we have back-up plans for all students. The work put in by Miss Lawes is supported by the wider year team and school leadership team, along with careers meetings with Graham Peart. Mr Jarman also spoke to students briefly about our sixth form and will build upon this in a couple of weeks.

Dates for the diary:

- HOP How to Revise (for students) - Period 6 on Wednesday 5th October
- Year 11 Parents' Information Evening is on Thursday October 13th. This is an opportunity to meet with the wider team that are working with year 11 this year and hear about the processes of college applications, exams, and our continued wellbeing support.
- Post-16 Open Evening (for parents and students) - Tuesday October 18th

In and around the classrooms I am seeing greater focus and attention to learning during the day; additionally, the buzz of year 11s after school searching for Period 6 sessions is becoming infectious with increasing numbers already rolling up their sleeves ready to soak up extra information from our fantastic team of teachers. Mrs Green and I are hoping to create a timetable of sessions to share before we finish this half term.

In free time, as we have arrived in the autumn, please can you encourage your child to think about their outwear. We see lots of shivering students at the start of the day and they often say they forget to pick up a coat or jumper. It will undoubtedly get colder, and we want them to feel toasty warm and comfortable whilst out in the fresh air.

As I always like to remind you, Ms Green and I are here to support you and your child through this important year. We understand that each student has individual needs, and we will our utmost to support them in any way that we can. Please let us know if there is anything we can do.

Take care and stay safe.

Mrs Todd

Head of Year 11

Mrs Green

Assistant Head of Year 11

WEEK 6 - Friday 14 October 2022

Hello to all our year 11 students and their families,

The sweet smell of Candy floss, Toffee apples, and fried onions has once again graced our nostrils, with students eagerly discussing their trips to Hull Fair and seeing them finding time to relax with family and friends has been lovely to see. It is important that they find time to unwind and have fun, even in such a pivotal year.

In the past couple of weeks, we have continued see an uptake in students attending revision sessions and asking for guidance from teachers. The overall approach of the year group is fabulous to see and their want to ensure they soak up all on offer is delightful.

We held our first two 'How to Revise' period 6 sessions and students spoke positively about how they now have a better understanding of getting themselves set up and ready to revise before just getting on with it. I will be re-running the sessions in the future and will happily discuss the topic with anybody who missed it.

On Thursday evening, we held our Year 11 Parent Information Event. Thank you to those who were able to attend or who spoke to myself and Mrs Green about what we were discussing. For anybody unable to attend, the evening consisted of us talking about how next summer's exam will look; coursework and internal exams, revision and interventions; post-16 support from Mr Jarman and Miss Lawes; the support our pastoral team offer; and attendance. A link to the presentation can be found [here](#).

In the coming weeks, I will be starting to explore ways to bring some joy and fun memory-making moments for the students as this is their final year- and I am aware it feels like we've lived through chapters in a 'dystopian' novel. I hope to share information regarding the eagerly discussed 'Prom' and gather ideas on what we can do to find some sparkle in the pressure of year 11.

Dates for your diary:

- Monday 17 October- HOP Stress management presentation (Period 1 for all students)
- Tuesday 18 October- Consortium Sixth Form - Hessle Campus Open Evening
- Friday 21 October- Teacher training day: School closed to students
- Monday 7 November- Year 11 Parent Drop-in 4:00-5:30pm (A chance to meet myself and Mrs Green to discuss anything you need, with a warm drink and biscuits. No need to book.)

If there is anything we can do to support your child, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Take care and stay safe.

Mrs Todd

Head of Year 11

Mrs Green

Assistant Head of Year 11

WEEK 10 - Friday 18 November 2022

Hello to all our year 11 students and their families,

Apologies that my previous blog was missed; it has been a busy few weeks.

Towards the end of the first half term, students have been asking for after school revision sessions with subject teachers and maximising the LRC facility in school. Past papers, creating flash cards, team work etc... have been quickly established and are now becoming a routine. It has been great to see how the previous year groups have been such significant role models and staying behind to revise is now becoming a routine part of the day for most Year 11 students.

Hopefully, our younger students will see this in the coming months and start to see what awaits them when they reach this crucial time in school.

In the past couple of weeks, Mrs Green and I have also been helping students' complete applications for the Sixth form, College, or Apprenticeships. It has been fantastic to see the students realise that setting this up early is one important thing off the list and getting it done - with a back-up - is a priority for this half term. If any of your children need this support, please let us know.

Last week, the year group received their exam timetable, and it is fair to say there were some flabbergasted expressions as they realised how many exams they were sitting. I did tell them that they do become more spread-out by the time we get to summer; however, doing them in school only gives us a limited window.

This week, Year 11 are currently in the full throes of their first round of mock exams, and it is a pleasure to say that they have shown great resilience and determination. For those exams that involve the full year group, students have conducted themselves with maturity and are prepared to see how much they recall from year 10 and what they have covered this year. Talking to the students they have been saying they are 'Tiring,' 'Go too fast,' and 'My hand is going to drop off.' The cherry on the top made me smile, 'They are preparing us for summer, so that's fair.' It has been good to see how they are seeing the value in sitting the mocks and understanding how important they are.

With the mocks has also come a ride through the emotional rapids for several students; a realisation that revision does matter; and some additionally stress and worry. Myself, Mrs Green, and other staff have been reminding them to give it their best and that we still have time to fill the gaps in the jigsaw. Mock results allow teachers to see what we still need to go through, areas that need to be revisited, and prepare and deliver interventions. I remind students daily that, as a collective body, we have all the support and teaching necessary; they must embrace that, being the makers of their own destiny. We are always here to support the students, so please remind them of this if they forget - they are not alone.

As we plan for life beyond school, a high number of Year 11s have taken part in our Sixth Form Taster Day this week, trying subjects they wish to develop further, whilst exploring new subjects such as Criminology and Product design.

It is fair to say, we never have a dull moment, and this year is keeping us all on our toes.

Future dates for the diary:

Our next Year 11 Information Evening is on Thursday 1 December. You will receive further information via email shortly.

Take care and stay safe,

Mrs Todd

Head of Year 11

Mrs Green

Assistant Head of Year 11

WEEK 12 - Friday 2 December 2022

Hello to all our year 11 students and their families,

Again, Year 11 have continued to have a remarkably busy couple of weeks. Thank you for your attendance at their Progress Evening last night; it was lovely talking to you all about your experience of the evening and about progress and future plans.

The mocks, mentioned in my previous Blog, ended and the sheer relief on the faces of students was evident. It was undoubtedly a gruelling couple of weeks for them, but an experience for them to become comfortable with the repeated nature of entering the exam hall, sitting papers in timed conditions, and reflecting on their performance afterwards. Mocks do not only allow staff to gather data and see how we can support students in the coming months, but they also help the students to develop resilience and integrity as they prepare for the summer of 2023. They will have a second round of mocks in February, either side of the half term break.

Following on from the mocks, myself, Mrs Meir, and Mrs Craft-Watson will be sitting down to look at the support we can tailor for students in the year group. Additionally, Heads of Department and their staff will be looking at the areas of development required by classes and individuals - tailoring their lessons to ensure they fill any gaps in knowledge, whilst considering the use of timing students who struggle to write under pressure and much more. In the new year the Period 6 sessions will increase, again with us looking to ensure students can access all subjects and avoid clashing sessions.

On Monday, the year team met and discussed how we can support the year group; there were many ideas discussed, with some fantastic practice shared amongst our team. One thing that is a need is to find some fun and enjoyment to lift spirits during the next six months. We have started this with an advent calendar for each group, which has lifted the mood in the morning. I am now planning some combined revision and activity sessions to merge the studying with a chance to relax and make memories - more to follow in the new year.

Another thing which is now in full swing is the 6th Form interview process. Mr Jarmen is meeting with the students who have expressed interest in staying on here and this will continue between now and the end of term.

As we move through the next couple of weeks, students will continue in normal lessons and be receiving their grades from the mocks. Lessons still require attentiveness and full engagement. Next week, some students will be off timetable to finalise coursework required for Photography, Art and Drama. Their teachers will inform them of when this will be.

Lastly, the final week of term sees year 11 have their second Careers Week. Miss Lawes will be explaining the format of the week to students next Monday and this is another chance for them to build the foundations for their life beyond year 11.

Please remember that if there is anything you feel we can do to support your child, please feel free to contact us via phone or email.

Take care and stay safe.

Mrs Todd

Head of Year 11

Mrs Green

Assistant Head of Year 11

WEEK 18 - Friday 27 January 2023

Hello to all our Year 11 students and their families,

The start to the new year has been very positive for Year 11 and they are getting into the swing of knuckling down and applying themselves in their studies.

Mrs Craft-Watson has worked tirelessly to create a reward system that allows students and tutors to track attendance, Period 6 Revision, Positive ATL, Progress, Independence and Conduct. All students should have a card booklet now, in which they can collect their rewards. (We have reminded them to check their pockets before putting their uniform in the wash basket!)

All achievement points collected will accumulate to a range of rewards for Year 11 students; this hopefully will improve engagement, support with attendance, and celebrate student successes with them.

This week during tutor time, students received templates for creating revision timetables. Myself, Mrs Green, and the tutors will be encouraging them all to map out where they are learning, revising, and attending interventions- whilst also remember that breaks, fun, relaxation are equally necessary when thinking about their self-care and mental health.

The P6 interventions are thriving and the uptake and attendance so early on is a further example that our year group are committed to achieve their full potential in the future. If there is not a subject session relevant, students are using the LRC after school and personalising their revision and accessing past papers online. To further support students, we are now offering lunchtime revision space. Those who are joining our Sixth Form in September may use Tranby House whilst the LRC is available to our other students.

Last week, our year group experienced 'Mock Interview' day (for me, one of the best days of the school year) and it went terrifically well. Students arrived looking savvy and swish in their business-like attire; the interviews ran like clockwork, and the atmosphere was electric. This was followed by target setting with their teachers, gathering an understanding of the individual goals that they each have as we build towards the final exams this summer. They then also enjoyed a talk by Motivational speaker and comedian, Moj (From PUSH).

Prom update: The Prom is confirmed for Friday 23rd June and will be held at 'The Country Park Inn' on Hessle Foreshore. In the coming weeks I will finalise the plans regarding times, costs, and purchasing tickets. In the meantime, if your child is still searching for their outfit, please consider visiting our Prom Hire shop <https://sites.google.com/hessleacademy.com/promhireshop/home> Students can view the outfits in school and try them on for size at times arranged with myself and Mrs Green.

Forthcoming mock exams: The next mock exam window is between 06/02/23- 24/02/23 (with half term in between.) The students have had their timetables emailed to them this week.

As we head towards another busy fortnight, please remember we are here to support your child in any way that we can. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

Stay safe and take care.

Mrs Todd

Head of Year 11

Mrs Green

Assistant Head of Year 11

WEEK 20 - Friday 10 February 2023

Hello to all our year 11 students and their families,

It has been a hectic half term, and I feel like we have been caught in a time travelling vortex that has dropped us off here; it is fair to say that time flies when you're having fun (not certain that is how the year group feel) and blink and you will miss it. However, they have flown through the past six weeks with great determination and commitment- culminating in the first week of their mock exams.

The week started with their English language, paper 1 mock and ended with their third Maths paper. They have all shown how they can manage the setting and situation, proving that (even with the covid chaos) prior practice of sitting in assessments has paid off and the students are in a positive place when they enter the exam hall; routines are becoming the norm and they are modelling the expectations and conditions in an exemplary way. We will continue with these mocks when we return from half term; Mrs Green will continue with her text reminders the night before and we hope the punctuality and attendance continues to be a priority for the students.

As we move forward towards Easter and the summer, we have finally had confirmation of key dates and are now onto 'The Final Countdown' - a link to these key dates can be found [here](#): As you will see the final exam dates are shown, with the contingency date being for any reason an exam doesn't run. It then shows results day later in August- meaning you can book holidays confidently knowing when things will happen.

Whilst students have done so well, there are still airs of worry and anxiety on how to prepare for what lies ahead. With this in mind, I have shared 2 videos with them via email: the first is a student of a similar age discussing how to create a revision timetable [HOW TO MAKE A REVISION TIMETABLE | Floral Sophia - YouTube](#) The second is the importance of self-care as they need to understand that they must look after themselves, not just now but in their futures [What does self-care really mean? - YouTube](#).

The next half term is another six-week long stint with revision and intervention taking place both before and after school. There are a variety of different things running for the students and we will send text reminders daily. Students who plan to join us in the sixth form will continue to access Tranby House on a lunchtime to revise, whilst we run a booking system for students to use the LRC at lunchtime.

I hope everybody has a good half term, and students find time to relax as well as revise for the remaining mock exams.

Take care and stay safe.

Mrs Todd

Head of Year 11

Mrs Green

Assistant Head of Year 11

WEEK 22 - Friday 3 March 2023

Hello to all our year 11 students and their families.

We are surviving the ever-evolving whirlwind that is spinning around us in the build-up to exams and the students are hanging on tight and making the most of all the support that is available to them.

The mock exams finished last week and this week teachers have been sharing the marks with students. As is always the case, there have been happy tears and disappointed faces; however, what we get from these now is clear priorities for each learner and they can create revision timetables designed to target the areas of need.

On Thursday we held our first 'Success Day' at Water Edge, Barton. A group of students boarded our minibuses and ventured over the bridge to develop their skills in English and Maths. Their effort and engagement was exemplary and the students found the session both useful and enjoyable.

Following this, we will be running a further two 'Success Days' in the coming weeks.

Looking at the engagement of students in their learning, I am proud to say that we have 98 students in the year group that attend an after-school session 5 nights a week. Alongside this there are many more in the year group accessing the period 6 sessions and using the LRC for independent revision. Now the mocks are over, period 6 revision sessions are continuing daily, and students have access to the list of sessions via email and in their tutor rooms.

March is a busy month in many of our practical subjects, with many of the courses having deadlines to meet for the coursework element of the unit. Please can you remind your child about the need to be aware of the deadlines and to ask for any necessary help. If they are struggling to access computers and software, we have rooms available after school for them to access and complete their folders.

In tutor sessions, and then appointments with Miss Lawes and Myself, we have checked the future destinations for students and helped others apply for their next step placements. Hopefully, before we finish for Easter, we will have an idea of where they are all hoping to go and be supporting them with interviews.

Looking ahead, Thursday 9th March is our next Year 11 Information Evening for parents/carers and students. The event starts at 4.30 with a presentation at 5pm in the main hall and a variety of stands with subjects' specific information- useful for the coming months of preparation. Each student will receive a gift bag that contains some great resources to help support them as we progress towards the final hurdle. The event will finish at 6pm and an email will be sent to confirm everything shortly.

I am also now finalising some of the things that the students are looking forward to the price of our prom; information and photographs for the yearbook; and leavers hoodies.

I think, for now, that is everything.

Please remember to contact us if you feel your child needs any additional support; we will do our best to find support for them.

Take care and stay safe.

Mrs Todd

Head of Year 11

Mrs Green

Assistant Head of Year 11

WEEK 24 - Friday 17 March 2023

Hello to all our year 11 students and their families.

As I write this, I am feeling a wave of emotions, like a tsunami racing towards the shore. We have reached the point where students are nearing the final hurdle and they are tightening their laces and preparing for the race of their life (or one of the many that is still to come.)

We are now just six school weeks from the first GCSE exam and it seems surreal that we are closing in on the end of the year. With great pride, I can say that the students are keeping up the momentum and looking towards staff for support in all areas- be that academic or emotional. The number of students in the LRC each evening is additional to those attending period 6 revision session. They are practicing past papers; testing each other; and using revision websites and videos. Tutors are letting us know of any students that are struggling to balance their workload, or feeling low, and we are picking them up for chats and words of reassurance.

On Thursday 16 March, students in the year group heard the heart-breaking story of Paul Spence, an inspirational man who has had to rebuild his life after an assault. He came in to deliver his 'One Punch' presentation and explained how one punch robbed him of the life he had been building, and how he has had to rebuild. His story is a journey that demonstrates resilience, courage, and determination. The students later spoke with compassion and empathy for all he has had to go through- again, making me a proud Head of Year.

Whilst working towards the exams, students have been buzzing about ordering their leavers hoodies and comparing the colour options with their friends; I am looking forward to receiving them in June and getting a photo of the year group wearing them- It will be like an explosion of skittles on the school field.

They are also talking about the Yearbook and have been sending me any candid snap shots that they think would be good additions. Please remind your child that I am still accepting appropriate entries, before we start the final cut. New headshots are going to be taken of each student on May 11th; this will replace the old, younger, images and be arranged in tutor group order in the book.

Finally, the buzz about prom stepped up this week when we asked for the students to vote on the theme for their prom. They were offered: Fire and Ice; Around the World; Out of this World; Starry nights and Dreamy vibes; or The Oscars. The winning theme (Drum roll here....) The Oscars! Students voted in large numbers for a 'Red carpet' Oscars theme, based on most of the already having purchased dresses that don't appear to go with the others. I am now working on finalising

decorations, awards, and so on; once I have all the costs gathered, I will be able to set the price and start fully advertising the event which will be held on Friday 23 June 2023.

Next week, students studying GCSE Languages will be having the final Speaking and Listening mock exam. They will get a time slot between Monday and Thursday, and it is imperative they arrive for their slot. Beyond this, other students have access to a range of period 6s to continue to attend, along with other smaller interventions.

Mrs Green and I continue to be available to support students and if there is anything you require our support with please let us know.

Take care and stay safe

Mrs Todd

Head of Year 11

Mrs Green

Assistant Head of Year 11

WEEK 28 - Friday 28 April 2023

Hello to all our year 11 students and their families,

The late, great, elegant Marilyn Monroe said, "Keep smiling, because life is a beautiful thing and there's so much to smile about." This week I have smiled for many reasons- a lot of them due to working and supporting such awesome students. As we near the end of the year, I cannot believe how lucky I am to be their Head of Year.

Smile number 1 arrived on Monday morning when the artwork for the year group hoodies arrived. Mrs Green and I spent time proofreading them to check that names were correct and they are now in production. The vast array of colours is stunning: Black, White, Grey through to Baby Pink, Fuchsia and Mint Green. They should arrive with us week commencing 5 June.

The second smile arrived on Tuesday when we finalised costing the prom. As previously shared, the prom is on Friday 23 June 2023 at The Country Park Inn. Today the tickets have been added to ParentPay and are priced at £23.50. The evening starts at 6:30pm and students will be greeted by a red carpet and brass band. We have been listening to the excited buzz and seeing photos of stunning dresses, quirky outfits, and some original items. Pray for a sunny evening! Further information on the arrangements for the night will be sent out in due course.

On Wednesday, having used my mathematical mind (I must add, I am more of a 'words' person) I calculated the 'mean' number of students who attend revision and arranged for a surprise Dominos delivery at the end of the day. I met students in the dining room and explained how proud we are of their commitment and integrity to improve their knowledge and support each other, leading to pizza for all. Momentarily it felt like I was part of Alfred Hitchcock's 'The Birds' when students descended swiftly to where I stood. However, they then displayed their manners and kindness whilst taking a slice and helping to clear away afterwards. The number of students who then thanked us for the treat again brought a smile to my face.

The strike day arrived on Thursday, and we had good attendance. As a treat for the year group, we then ordered Pizza again for the whole year group. Things never change- food is the swiftest way to the hearts of young people 😊

Reaching the end of the week, I continue to smile. I am blessed to be supported by Mrs Green and it is fabulous seeing and hearing how much parents and students appreciate her, as I do. The teamwork then stems from the two of us to the tutor team and wider school staff. The students are complimentary of the support we are giving and our relentless nature to get them to the finish line. I smiled listening to staff praise the students that are going the extra mile; students who have hopped onboard the bus towards exams with a determination to reach the destination; and students that are approaching them for support. Working here is delightful, and in Marilyn Monroe's words, 'there is so much to smile about.'

Have a fabulous bank holiday weekend.

Take care and stay safe

Mrs Todd

Head of Year 11

Mrs Green

Assistant Head of Year 11

WEEK 30 - Friday 12 May 2023

Hello to all our year 11 students and their families.

A deep intake of breath and here I go; It has been another very busy two weeks for the students, and again Mrs Green and I are immensely proud of the commitment and dedication we are seeing.

Students have completed their Art and Photography exams and the language department have spoken passionately about how well the students did in their speaking element of their exams. In some subjects, coursework has been a key focus and students finalising portfolios during lessons and after school.

In lessons, the students have been fine tuning skills and techniques ready for showing-off to the examiners and testing knowledge through retrieval over time and practice questions that are set to match their areas of need. The corridor wanderings have been delightful as seeing students engaged and making every second count is a testament to their hard work.

Thursday saw us navigate student photos and the buzz about having photos updated at last was immense, with students saying they were glad we were doing this as they hated the idea that their year 7 photo may end up in a yearbook (I think they were all cute, yet they beg to differ). The yearbooks will be available to purchase soon, but they will not be available to collect until September, as we also include a selection of photos from the prom and August's results day.

The week ended with us saying 'Well done' to the year group and wishing them luck for the final sweep of GCSE exams. In the assembly all students had messages from their tutors, House Leaders, members of SLT, and myself and Mrs Green telling them 'Well Done' for all the hard work in the past

months. The day ended with the treat of an ice cream and ideas of how to spend their weekend (please see below):

Saturday

Have some 'Me' time. You have worked hard all week and you need a moment to remember 'you'. Spend the time with family or friends; watch Eurovision and eat tasty treats; Take a long walk or bake a cake- Anything that is an escape and helps you with your mental health.

Sunday

During the day

The day before your exam, you should carry on with your revision plan, school timetable or taking exams as already planned out. Try to emphasise revising for the exam the following day, but if you're in the middle of exam season with lots of exams still to take, it's probably not a good idea to exclusively focus on just the exam you've got tomorrow.

Just keep going at the revision, steadily and surely making progress.

The night before

For you, the night before should be all about rest and relaxation. You might want to cast your eye gently over your revision notes or get someone to test you on something for one last time. However, hard-core brain work should not be your emphasis. Here are some of the things that you should be doing:

- Double checking you have all your equipment for tomorrow's exam ready to go in the morning
- Having a nutritious and healthy meal
- Taking some exercise or getting some fresh air
- Relaxing in your favourite way, whether that's watching TV, playing on the games console, dancing around to your favourite tunes or having a bubble bath
- Getting an early night and a fantastic night's sleep

Being relaxed and well rested with your blood heartily circulating around your body is the healthiest way to prepare. It will mean that in the morning your mind is sharp, ready to dredge up everything you've revised, and nimble enough to make the most of what you know, even if you can't give the perfect answer to the question in front of you.

There are still several busy weeks ahead and Mrs Green and I continue to be available to support all students and families. Together we will help them reach the final hurdle and then have opportunity to celebrate their successes.

Take care and stay safe.

Mrs Todd

Head of Year 11

Mrs Green

Assistant Head of Year 11

WEEK 32 - Friday 26 May 2023

Hello to all our Year 11 students and their families,

Each blog I write at present sends me into a myriad of emotions; the realisation that I am close to ending my time with the students in year 11 is daunting, scary, and exciting- to list a few emotions.

Following on from our Ice Cream van, on Friday 12th, students arrived on site promptly on Monday 15th May- ready to embrace their first 'whole year group' exam; arriving on site at 7:25am, my heart was racing, hoping that all students were well and would arrive in school on time. I needn't have worried – everyone was there, and so it has continued.

The exams over the past two weeks have gone well. There have been many smiling faces as students exited the exam hall, with their hard work paying off. There has been a lot of chatter about the questions, the responses and the vast majority has been positive. When it hasn't gone well, they have come out and simply said 'I tried my best' whilst acknowledging that they would move on to the next one and not dwell on what they cannot change- demonstrating great resilience.

The approaching half term will allow students to re-focus on the exams that remain and get much needed rest- hopefully enjoying the beautiful weather forecast that awaits us.

As we move beyond the holiday, and into the final weeks, I wanted to share some information that should be useful to you.

We will continue to give students their own individualised timetable each week. This has been successful in the past two weeks and allows students to see where they are going for pre-exam sessions, exams, lessons, or intervention. I would like to remind students that they should arrive promptly for all their exams and in their full school uniform, bringing with them the necessary equipment.

During the ongoing examinations, where a student has an examination on a particular day, they will continue to be released from lessons to sit their exam, returning to lessons or break at the end of the examination. On days or periods where students do not have an examination, lessons will continue to be delivered with students supported in preparing for upcoming examinations in that subject or having subject led intervention. It is important that students follow these timetables – please encourage your child to do this.

Beyond the classroom and exams:

The Leavers Hoodies have arrived with us and handed them out before students left today. We got a fab photo for the yearbook, and I will also have it shared on Twitter

The Year 11 Celebration Assembly will take place on Thursday 15th June, during period 5. The assembly is a celebration of the year group's time across Years 7 – 11 at Hessle High School and the opportunity for memories to be shared. Following this there will be the ceremonial 'Shirt Signing'; where students will have an opportunity to sign shirts, take photos and there will be a few treats in store for them!

The Prom takes place on Friday 23rd June at The Country Park Inn, Hessle Foreshore. The deadline for ordering tickets is Monday 5th June 2023. Once purchased, on ParentPay, they can be collected from the school reception- store them safely please. Can I remind students that good behaviour throughout the examination period and attendance at all examinations is expected and failure to meet these expectations can result in the Prom being withdrawn.

The Yearbooks are now available on ParentPay and are priced at £12. As previously mentioned, they will be available to collect mid-September, as we gather pictures from the Prom and results day to add to the memories.

Should you have queries regarding the end of year events, including the prom, the Year 11 team will be happy to respond

As always, please remember we are here to support you and can be contacted via phone or email, note the address is now hoy11@hessleacademy.com.

Enjoy the 3rd bank holiday weekend, the sunshine, and time together.

Stay safe and take care,

Mrs Todd

Head of Year 11

Mrs Green

Assistant Head of Year 11

WEEK 34 - Friday 16 June 2023

Hello to all our year 11 students and their families,

I am feeling totally and utterly discombobulated. For just over two years I have been the head of year to some of the most fantastic, awesome, and inspiring young people- yet today, for most, they have reached the end of their journey and completed their exams. (There is a small handful that will be in next week to complete their studies.) Saying 'Goodbye' and knowing that my days will now be somewhat different is really causing a spin and whilst I will fully embrace the changes, losing our year group is a difficult moment in my career.

Your children are part of my first 'Full' year group and as I think back to my first encounter with them all (back in 2021), I cannot believe how the time has passed, but it has. They have now grown up, changed, and become a group of wonderful young adults, who are ready to embrace so many different avenues with eagerness, enthusiasm, and an air of trepidation.

In the past week the year group have sat the final exams and they have conducted themselves wonderfully. The weather has been kind to us - a mood lifter for sure. There is still a small cluster of exams to come next week but - by the time we reach the prom - we will be done and dusted.

On Thursday afternoon, if you've not already heard, we held our leavers' assembly- the biggest emotional challenge of my life to date. I think I managed three sentences before sharing a video, containing over 200 photos of their time here. After this I tried again, but every time I tried to tell them how proud I am of them all the floodgates opened (Although, hopefully they now know showing emotion in public is ok.) We then moved onto the rite of passage, known as 'Shirt signing'. This had begun earlier in the day, but it was lovely to see how they all wanted to keep their peers in everlasting memory. Each student also received a lucky penny from Mrs Green and I, and an email later in the day to tell them what I wanted to say:

'One good thing about being an English teacher is the fact that before we became 'Our year group', I knew a lot of you before I became your HOY. Plus, I already had my 'Purple' as Ariel HOH. It meant that when I embarked on my journey as HOY9 I already knew I was lucky to work with you.

It has been a journey, and I cannot stress how much I want you all to have the best life. Understandably, there was a lot of chatter at the start, so I don't know if you heard the song I was playing: Please check out 'My Wish' by Rascal Flats; I chose it for you guys.

What we have experienced in the past 2, and a bit years, is remarkable. Life is a roller coaster and together we've made it through the crazy twists and turns and are still standing as this part of the ride ends.

Thank you for being such an awesome group of people, and moreover for trusting us to support you through the highs and lows.

You have all developed values of our school and become individuals who can thrive and achieve your dreams. Please remember a few key things:

- * We are the makers of our own destiny.
- * Manners cost nothing but get you far.
- * Always be kind.
- * Be happy (but know that feeling sad is ok.)'

I couldn't have supported the year group, as I have, without the 'Marvellous' Mrs Green, and our fantastic tutors; beyond this team, the wider teaching and support staff and our school leadership team. We have all found working with the students an enjoyable challenge- highs and lows, tears and laughter, silent moments and mad moments, but this is why we do what we do- and why we keep doing it.

Additionally, I couldn't have supported the students without your support; the relationship between home and school is imperative in helping our students to achieve their potential. It has been wonderful getting to know you all and I thank you for the hard work you have given to support your children, and us.

But we are not finished yet. Drum roll please....

- Our prom is a week today. A letter has been emailed to you advising of the key information for the night, and I have shared this on email to the students. Please pray the weather continues to be kind to us.
- The 6th form induction event, for the students who are returning to join our 6th form, is between the 29th and 30th June. Please remind your child to complete the sign-up sheet if it has not yet been done- This MUST be done by Monday 19th June.
- GCSE Exam Results Day- Thursday 24th August. Information will be emailed closer to the time, but again a letter has been emailed to you about exams.
- Yearbooks- These will be sent to print after the exam results day. We will contact you when they arrive to arrange collection.

Enjoy your summer and any holidays that you have booked. Many students are talking about: Camping, Cruising, heading to festivals, or beach holidays here and further afield- They deserve the break.

Mrs Todd

Head of Year 11

Mrs Green

Assistant Head of Year 11