

16 October 2020

Dear Year 11 Parents & Carers,

Support for your child during Year 11

After a turbulent end to the last academic year, I am writing to tell you how proud I am of the start that our year 11 students have made to their final year of their GCSEs. We are working with students in order to prepare them to achieve the best possible grades for their **GCSE qualifications** this summer. Whilst we are working hard to ensure they have the best academic support I want to add that we are also supporting students with their mental health and wellbeing. During the year we have a variety of support sessions planned and these include weekly support in tutor time and a stress buster program that will start after Christmas. As always if you are concerned about your son/daughter's mental wellbeing or academic progress please email Mrs Bates: a.bates@newbold.outwood.com in the first instance. As the year 11 academic lead I am also working closely with your son/daughter and would be happy for you to email me with any queries or concerns.

We started our intervention program on 7 September. This includes tutor time sessions for Maths, English and Science, after school support for all option and core subjects and 1 to 1 support for Maths, English and Science. If your son/ daughter has been identified as requiring additional intervention, this information can be found at the front of your son or daughter's planner via an intervention sticker.

We are due to review this support and reissue the stickers after half term. Please note that the need for intervention is reviewed regularly we will ensure that intervention is in place for those students who need additional support.

Additionally, I would like to invite you to our first virtual event for parents and carers. This Year 11 information evening is due to take place on 20 October 2020. As you would expect with current Covid-19 restrictions we are unable to invite you into the academy. However, we will be posting a video on Google Classroom (via your son/daughter's English classroom) and this will also be posted on our website. You are welcome to watch the video at any time, however between 4pm – 6pm on 20 October, myself and Mr Southern will be available to speak to you should you have any questions or queries. If you would like to speak to us you will need to complete this [Google form](#) with your query. The form will ask you for your email address. During the allotted time we will reply to any questions you post on the form via the email you have provided. The Google form link will also be posted in your son/daughter's Google Classroom although it will not be available via the website.

GCSEPod online homework

We are delighted to announce that Outwood Academy Newbold has invested in GCSEPod, the award winning digital content and revision provider used by over 1,250 schools to supplement learning and revision in Science.

As a subscriber, each Year 11 now has access to GCSEPod's library of over 300 Science 'Pods', which are 3 to 5 minute videos designed to deliver knowledge in short bursts. GCSEPod makes learning and revision much more manageable: every Pod is mapped to our AQA Combined Science curriculum, and contains all the right facts, keywords and annotated diagrams that your child needs for GCSE success – all neatly organized into topics and exam playlists. One of the best things about the GCSEPod app (which is available in Apple and Play store) is that Year 11 students can download any Pod to their mobile device, and then watch them at any time, in any place, with or without internet access. Rather like carrying a whole set of textbooks in their pocket!

GCSEPod also has the ability to identify knowledge gaps and automatically send playlists to help fill them. After completing any homework set on GCSEPod, Year 11 will get a personalised “Boost Playlist” of Pods relevant to their identified areas of weakness. Please can you strongly encourage your child to review these playlists regularly as this will speed up their progress in Science, particularly in these challenging times.

Please do discuss GCSEPod with your child, in particular checking that they have successfully activated their account and encouraging them to make use of this amazing resource throughout Year 11. Once they have activated their account, they can browse the library and create their own playlists – just as they would when they are listening to music.

For more ways to support your child using GCSEPod, please visit www.gcsepod.com/parents where you will find lots more information and resources. Your child has already been registered with GCSEPod, so all they need to do is activate their account by following the instructions below.

- Go to www.gcsepod.com and click “login” in the top right hand corner
- Click “New to GCSEPod? Get started”
- Select “Student”
- Enter your child’s name, date of birth and the school name
- Create a username, password, and a password hint to help them remember the password

Each week students will be set a “Pod Challenge”, they will watch selected Pods and answer a set of multiple-choice questions. These will be issued every Tuesday with the students in the Top 10 each week winning a prize.

If you have any questions please contact Miss Spencer via l.spencer@newbold.outwood.com who is leading all aspects of GCSEPod.

Yours faithfully,



Ms C Schulze
Vice Principal