



27<sup>th</sup> September 2023

STATION ROAD KNOWLE SOLIHULL B93 0PT  
01564 773 348  
WWW.ARDEN.SOLIHULL.SCH.UK

Dear Parents/Guardians

### **Year 11 Way Ahead – Information Letter**

It is now time for our 'new' Year 11 students, your children, to focus on having the very best attitude to learning in lessons and making the most of every opportunity. Today we have delivered to them the important message that they are now over half way through Key Stage 4. In less than 8 months' time they will be starting their external examinations and will be looking forward to the next stages in their education, with, hopefully, the confidence that they worked their hardest and tried their very best.

Whilst we strive to produce well rounded individuals at the end of their time with us here at Arden, it is also crucial to recognise the importance of a good set of examination results at the end of Year 11 and how this can affect opportunities for students moving forward. Information from end of Year 10 assessments suggests that Year 11 need to have an immediate and continual focus on these examinations in order to maximise their potential to achieve their very best and open doors to their futures.

There are a number of measures that we are putting in place to ensure that these messages are understood and reinforced over these next crucial weeks and months.

### ***Year 11 Information Evening***

On **Monday 9th October** all parents/guardians and their Year 11 children are invited to an Information Evening hosted by senior staff. In this meeting we will cover important details such as:

- How to revise and prepare for exams
- How to find more support
- Key subject specific information

The meeting will take place from **7-8pm in the School Hall**. Typically, all parents/guardians attend with their children. We will send a reminder email the week before.

### ***Assemblies and Form Time***

During the course of the academic year, senior staff and Form Tutors continually reinforce key messages and provide guidance to the whole year group.

### ***Achieving Grade 4 (or above) in English and Maths***

Further education and a variety of employment opportunities have a base requirement of qualification. In many cases this is a Grade 4 in both English and maths. We will be working very hard with our students to understand the value of their English and maths grades. In all cases, we are striving to ensure that all of our students achieve a Grade 4 in these most fundamental of subjects. A significant number of our students will be aspiring to higher grades than a Grade 4, we will also be working with these students to ensure they can achieve the highest grade possible. We plan to support this through lessons but also by providing parent and student information and workshops that will help you understand the specific ways that you can support your children in these core subjects.



### ***Specific Targeted Mentoring***

Students may benefit from the targeted support and intervention taking place at lunchtime and after school, especially in vocational subjects. You will be notified by subject teachers if your child is required to attend.

### ***Learning to Learn Programme***

Through assemblies, students will receive further support to deepen their understanding of memory and how to consolidate knowledge and revision strategies to use. This information can also be found on the revision website (linked later in this letter). This will be further consolidated and supported in Year 11 with workshops run by external speakers.

### ***Parent/Guardian Meetings with Senior and Pastoral Staff***

If we have specific, serious concerns about your child's progress and attitude to their work, we will invite some students and their parents/guardian into school for a meeting. These meetings will be supportive and focused on developing solutions.

### ***Year 11 Revision Website***

This website has been built for Arden students by Arden teachers. It provides useful information about:

- Exam boards and specifications
- General revision ideas and strategies
- Subject specific revision ideas, including recommended revision guides

<https://sites.google.com/arden.solihull.sch.uk/year-11-revision-resources/home>

Students will need to sign in with their Arden logon to access this website.

### ***Seneca***

We also continue to subscribe to Seneca Premium. This adaptive on-line learning platform tracks progress and uses students' responses to questions to then target their subsequent learning and assessment.

[Click this link to take you to an Arden specific Seneca webpage](#)

We also utilise other on-line learning platforms such as MyGCSE Science, Kerboodle for languages and Sparx.

### ***Careers Support***

Now is also the time to start to think about Post 16 options. Our Futures (Careers) Team have written to you separately with your invitation to an Information Evening on Wed 6th July, which we hope you will be able to attend.

There will be ongoing education throughout the coming months about the options available once Year 11 is complete. If, however, you feel your child would benefit from some 1-1 support now, please use the following form to make a referral to our independent careers advisor, Mrs Butcher-Johns:

<https://forms.gle/zFZGcxbCXwXMw4R49>

### ***Year 11 Parent Consultations***

We are holding two virtual parent and teacher consultations for Year 11; the first is on Thursday 19th October and the focus of this meeting will be to discuss both your child's strengths and areas of skills, and/or knowledge they could target for improvement. Each teacher will also be able to describe how those improvements can be made and how to access various subject

specific resources. We hope that this will enable a focused and purposeful build up to the December mock examinations. At this stage teachers will not be in a position to discuss any specific forecast grades.

The second session of consultations is scheduled for Thursday 1st February, shortly after the mock results are issued. Again, the focus will be similar. This will enable further improvements to be made in preparation for the core-subject second mocks which take place at the start of March. The timing of the second parent consultations also allows sufficient time for any actions/revision plans to have an impact before the external examinations commencing Thursday 9th May 2024.

### ***Reporting Home***

In support of the information given at parents' consultations, we also report home 'working at' grades twice during Year 11. The first will be towards the end of November and the second in January. The second set will also include mock grades.

In addition, we also provide a set of 'college grades' that can be used in applications to other institutions. These are not a guaranteed grade and should not be interpreted as predicted grades.

Our hope is that by sharing this information with you, you can also help your child by talking through some of these messages with them. As their parent/guardian, you know best if they are working at their full potential, or if there is room for improvement.

This letter outlines some of the support that we put in place for students during their time in Year 11, but this list is by no means exhaustive and we will share more information with you in the coming weeks and months.

Yours sincerely

**Mr Burke & Miss Page**  
Deputy Headteachers