

2 November 2021

## TO ALL Y11 PARENTS/CARERS

Dear Parent/Carer

As promised during the Y11 Parents Information Evening in September, we plan to update you regularly with any information we have in relation to Y11 next steps and examinations. We are immensely proud of our Y11 learners who as a year group are supportive, hardworking and resilient. We are also very grateful for the tremendous support we have from parents and carers; together we can ensure the best possible outcomes for our learners.

- **Apprenticeships**

Many companies, including JCB, have now opened their application process for apprenticeships commencing in August 2022. Y11 learners have had information regarding the application processes as part of their induction back to the academy after the summer and their PSHE sessions have focussed on getting their CVs up to date and where to look for apprenticeship information. In addition, just before the half-term break, Y11 learners were given a presentation by JCB regarding the variety of opportunities available to them.

Y11 learners who are applying for apprenticeships this year will need to ensure their CV is up to date and ready to send off. Learning Mentors are available to help learners who require any additional support with this and Miss Norcup is available in the Sixth Form Suite to speak with learners about their next steps.

Y11 learners will need to keep an eye on all newly advertised positions so they can apply in good time. Miss Norcup also sends out information to all learners about new opportunities and it is therefore important that learners are accessing their emails regularly so they can apply for positions in a timely manner.

Apprenticeships are advertised on company websites and on the National Apprenticeship website: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

- **The JCB Academy Sixth Form**

The JCB Academy Sixth Form is the sixth form of choice for business, sciences, mathematics and, of course, for engineering! Due to the exceptional results and destinations, the sixth form has been oversubscribed for a number of years. However, our Y11 learners have the competitive edge in their applications due to the engineering and business courses they follow. In August, The JCB Academy will launch the new T-Level in Engineering and current Y11 learners will have the opportunity to follow this course.

Learners interested in hearing more about this new opportunity and how to apply for their sixth form place are warmly invited to attend the Sixth Form Open Evening. Due to Covid-19 safety measures we are running two evenings, one for internal applicants (10 November 2021) and one for external applicants. Please follow this link to book a place for 10 November:

<https://jcb-academy.com/sixth-form-open-evening-wednesday-10-november-2021-registration/>

- **Y11 Examinations**

Learners in exam years have had two years of disrupted schooling due to the pandemic. As a result, the Department for Education has decided to make adjustments to the 2022 exams. There will be some changes to make the papers more accessible, such as formula sheets in science and mathematics, some optionality in English literature and pre-release information in other subjects. This will be designed to make revision easier and learners will hear more about this from examination boards on **28 February 2022**.

The final examination timetable is yet to be published, but we do know that exams will begin on 16 May 2022 and finish on **28 June 2022**. Where there is more than one exam paper per subject, those papers will be spread further apart than usual. **GCSE results day is 25 August 2022**.

The examinations will be graded on a mid-point between 2019 and 2020. This means that the grade boundaries will be adjusted to fall in between 2019 and 2020. Although this is not a call for complacency, learners do not need to worry unnecessarily about examinations.

It is really important to note that there is no ceiling on achievement. All learners who work hard this year will be rewarded and there is an excellent opportunity for those who wish to do well. If your son/daughter starts their revision early and works consistently between now and the examinations in May, they will be putting themselves in a good position to achieve high outcomes. Learners wishing to achieve good grades overall will be doing past papers and practice questions regularly and using the mark schemes to fill in any gaps in their understanding. They will also be practising their descriptive writing regularly and using the knowledge organisers to recall key information.

The next assessment point window for Y11 learners will be towards the end of the term during week commencing 13 December 2021. This will be the final in-class assessment before the mock exams which are scheduled to take place from Monday, 10 January 2022 to Friday, 21 January 2022.

Alongside these very important assessment dates there will also be a number of formal vocational exams taking place in January and February. These exams form a key part of the overall qualifications and it is important that learners prepare thoroughly for them. The dates are as follows:

- Engineering Manufacture: Engineering Materials, Processes and Production  
11 January 2022
- BTEC Enterprise: Promotion and Finance for Enterprise  
7 February 2022



Learners will be issued with an exam timetable during this half-term and a candidate information booklet which gives details on general exam regulations and expectations. This will be discussed further during tutor time and assemblies so that learners are clear on how they should conduct themselves in exams. A copy of the information booklet is attached with this letter.

- **Y11 Parents' Evenings**

During week commencing 15 November 2021, we will be hosting our virtual parents' evenings:

Y11 Arkwright	Tuesday, 16 November 2021
Y11 Bamford	Wednesday, 17 November 2021
Y11 Royce	Thursday, 18 November 2021

These will follow the previous evenings in terms of their design and structure so please look out for a notification via email that directs you to the online booking website. In order to allow all parents/carers the opportunity of a conversation with all staff, the slots are limited to five minutes and the video link will automatically terminate after this time. It would be beneficial if you speak with your son/daughter about any pressing questions or queries that you would like to put forward to their respective teachers so that the time slots are as productive as possible. On behalf of all the teaching staff we look forward to seeing you soon!

Supporting Y11 learners through this year is very much a team effort and if there is any additional information you require regarding assessments, next steps or examinations, please do not hesitate to email your son/daughter's Learning Mentor.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mrs J McGuirk  
Principal