



Dear parents/carers,

As the dust settles on the first few weeks of term, I would like to take some time to formally introduce myself and my role within the school. As Assistant Headteacher and Raising Standards Lead, my role in essence is to make sure our students get the best possible results and qualifications from their studies. Our aim for every student at Park House is that they climb their own personal mountain to reach their best universities and professions. Our current Year 11 students are nearing the peak of their mountain, having spent the last 5 years climbing it. It is time, now, for the Class of 2023 to commence their final climb in earnest, and to that end, there is a range of information to share with you.

One of the biggest indicators of student success is the amount of time that they spend being taught by good teachers. We are proud to be able to ensure that all Year 11 students get an **extended day** with their own subject teachers, and this will continue until they leave school at the end of their examinations. The extra time supports our students to secure the very best grades, so they can have an extended choices as they move into higher education. Between September and the start of their GCSE exams, this model gives students an additional 233 hours of learning time, which equates to 47 extra school days.

Some key features of the academic support for this first term up to Christmas are listed here, with more to follow later in the year.

Period 0: Instead of going to Tutor Time each morning, students have Period 0 which is an additional morning session in their English and Maths classes.

Period 6: An extra lesson each day, which over the two-week timetable allows an extra teaching hour in every GCSE or BTEC studied and two extra hours for English and Science.

Champions' Hour: This runs from 4-5 pm every day and is a revision/homework club in the library. We provide a comfortable place to work with computer access, staff to help with any revision queries, and an endless supply of biscuits! **We urge you to encourage your son or daughter to attend these voluntary sessions.**

Working Lunch: We hope to roll this out next term. It will be a chance for students to complete homework and revision each day in a computer room, while eating their lunch.

Alongside academic support, we are also planning a range of rewards and other events to recognise students' efforts, to motivate them to keep going. These will include celebration assemblies, prizes, and even pizza evenings and other treats. We will of course be putting on a **Prom for Year 11** and we can't wait to celebrate their success at the end of the year. Mrs Smyth, Head of Year 11, is already working actively on this, and we hope to be able to send 'save the date' message to year 11 students in the coming days. It is important to



Park House School

Work hard. Be kind. Take responsibility.

note, however, that rewards are part of our enhanced support package, and we reserve the right not to invite students who fail to attend interventions and/or lessons, or whose conduct falls short of our expectations.

Our first assessment cycle of the academic year is fast approaching us. The first set of **Year 11 Mocks** will run a little earlier this year to enable us to assess how well our students are revising and learning and to identify any gaps they have in their knowledge. These assessments will take place under full exam protocol to prepare them for their GCSE examinations in the summer. We will write to you separately with a personalised exam timetable and your child's seating plan. Written mocks will run from **Tuesday 1st to Tuesday 16th November** and will be taken in the Sports Hall. Heads of department are currently producing revision resources and links to give to students, and this will be shared shortly. Finally, early notice that that our second round of written mocks will take place from **27 February to 10 March**. The other important date I would like to make you aware of is our sixth form open evening which is taking place on **Thursday 17th November from 6pm** where we will be detailing the courses available and entry requirements for next September

I am very much looking forward to working with your sons and daughters to ensure they have a very successful Year 11. We know that those who work harder have the greatest chance of success. We can only help students to achieve the outcomes they deserve through working together so please do get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Davis