



## Year 11 run-in update 16/5/24

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have now completed nearly two weeks of exams and as a team we are incredibly proud of how year 11 have thrown themselves into their papers. Attendance has been outstanding, punctuality has been brilliant, and students seem to be giving the exams their very best – in other words, as it stands, we couldn't ask for more. I know that as parents you will also be putting an enormous amount of work in at home to support the students to give their all, so a massive thanks on behalf of all the staff and students here for the part you have played in making it a great start to the exam season.

The key now is maintaining these levels of effort and motivation as the weeks move on. The vast majority of our students will have in excess of 20 exams which is a significant undertaking. As such this period has to be a marathon and not a sprint, we have to ensure we do all we can to collectively limit the potential for burnout and keep them feeling positive about themselves as the final weeks tick by.

Following my last letter, I had a handful of emails asking about study leave and I have explained the rationale again as to why we want students to remain with us at school. Walking the site over the last week as I am lucky enough to do has given me all the evidence I could need that the decision was the right one – the pre-exam revision sessions in English and Science and most notably this week in History in the main hall were exceptional both in terms of staff input and student engagement. I left the History session feeling incredibly positive – if our students don't hit their potential after sitting through such focused guidance and support, there is little more we could have done.

As we move closer towards the half term, as has always been the case for students in year 11, one or two try to test the boundaries regarding uniform during exams. For clarity our uniform expectations are absolutely the same as always with the exception that students are allowed (should they wish) to wear their leavers hoodie. Whilst we will never ever refuse to admit a student into their exam due to uniform, it is something we would look to pick up with the student and parents after the exam session and a refusal to follow our reasonable expectations could impact on their attendance to the leaver's day event later in the term.

With regards the last day, students will be invited back after their final exams on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June at 8:45am to enjoy some time with their form tutor, some time together collectively on the back field for a BBQ (weather permitting...) and the annual leavers day assembly in the Sports Hall. The event will finish later that morning at approximately 12.00pm whereby students will be free to leave the site.

As is the case with the prom, the event will be one that students are *invited* to – and it remains our intention to invite every single student to attend wherever possible. I see the leavers day as a rite of passage that everyone should have the opportunity to attend, it is a fantastic moment where people should be able to celebrate their time with us. However, if we have concerns that students will not approach the day in the correct manner or if they behave in a manner between this correspondence and the end of exams that impacts on the smooth running of our school in such a key period for all students in year 11 – in other words, if they let themselves, you or us down, they will forfeit that opportunity to attend.

The key stage team have also sent correspondence out to students who are eligible for the Prom. We shared the clear list of criteria for accessing the prom earlier this year and it can be seen below:

- 95% score of 1s and 2s for lesson monitor
- No more than 10 periods of unauthorised absence
- No more than 5 after school detentions
- No more than 2 periods of red card or reflect
- No more than 1 period of temporary suspension

Naturally, as is the case with any situation where criteria for attendance is put in place, this has meant some students have not been able to access the Prom. Whilst this is regrettable, the expectations we put in place were entirely reasonable, allowed students to make mistakes and still attend, but also gave them something to aim for to keep them focussed towards achieving their end goal of successful exam results. If your child has been successful in meeting the criteria for Prom, their name will feature on a list outside the KS4 office and you will have access to purchase a ticket on their behalf on parent pay.

A reminder that we hit a natural break point in the exam season at half term (Friday May 24<sup>th</sup>) where a significant number of exams will be complete. It is at this point students can opt to take study leave or attend school to join in our drop-down revision sessions. A timetable for sessions after the half term break is attached so you have a clear picture of when exams are taking place and when support will be offered. Remember that if as a family you decide your student would be best served at this point revising at home, please email [ks4@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:ks4@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk) to let them know that you give permission for your child to leave after an exam if they have no more exams that day. Students taking up this offer would then have to sign out – we would not be able to allow them to exit unless you have given permission. We remain more than happy for students to choose to leave on some days and stay in for our revision sessions on others – in other words they can do what fits best for them daily after the 24th.

It is also worth reminding everyone that the national date for GCSE results is Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August. We will share more details about how the day will work soon, but as you would expect we will be there on the morning to give out results and help students sign up for Malbank Sixth Form.

As I noted at the start of the email, this should be a period where the years of hard work come together in a final push to achieve everything a young person is capable of. What I have seen in the last week and a half has made me really proud and I hope you have similar feelings of hope and pride based on what you have seen your child do at home to contribute towards their own success.

As always, if we can help in any way or if you have any queries or concerns about the forthcoming exams, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours,



John Harrison  
Headteacher - Malbank School and Sixth Form