



NPJG/CAS

8th September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you all had a good summer.

I took an assembly with Year 11 at the start of term. (No doubt you heard the round of applause I got at the end. Apologies if it made your ears ring a little!) In all seriousness, the positive way students responded to me was impressive. I thought it would be useful to share the message I gave with you.

My key points are that I want this school year to be even more enjoyable and successful. We will aim to reduce any stress to an absolute minimum. That includes for parents and carers. We work with Year 11 every year with huge success and it will be no different this year. It is my hope that I reassured students.

During the next three terms, we will be helping students shape their future pathways. This will be via tutors and teachers, as well as careers and post-16 options advice. The senior team will be mentoring students individually and in small groups. This will all involve close liaison with yourselves.

Please make a note of the following dates. Parental involvement is essential, dare I say compulsory! If you can't make one or more of these dates, please contact us. This can be via Mrs Gunter or your son's/daughter's tutor:

12th October	Year 11 Parents' evening
2 nd November	Exam briefing
9 th November	Sixth Form Open Evening
20 th November-1 st December	Mock Exams
15 th December	Year 11 Mock Results
26 th January	Year 11 full reports
5 th – 7 th March	English, maths and science mock exams
3 rd -6 th April	Easter School
4 th May	Prom
14 th May	GCSE exams begin
2 nd & 3 rd July	Sixth Form induction

Continued



Students sitting GCSEs this year will gain grades 1-9 in most subjects. This is different from the A*-E grades with which we are all familiar. We have had some experience of this. Maths and English GCSE grades used numbers instead of letters this summer. Teachers are well prepared for these developments. To make this change even more successful, we need students' continued co-operation. This is in the form of focused classwork and homework. You can support us in this. Please check 'Show my Homework' and ensure students have the correct equipment. Full attendance and punctuality are vital. My shorthand message to students on this was, 'Do what my people tell you.'

Students have displayed mature behaviour and a good approach to school. In the rare instances a few individuals have needed redirection, this has worked well. This positive approach must continue. Again, I used a more direct message with students. This included a picture of the Muppets with a *no entry sign* over it. 'No Muppetry'. You get the point and I'll spare you the pictures.

Students must continue to undertake extra-curricular activities and their hobbies. Striking a good balance between school work, fitness and recreation is essential.

There will be much to enjoy this year. This includes the Prom. All Year 11 who wish to attend the Prom can do so. If there are financial concerns, please contact us to discuss these. Students can lose the right to attend as it is not an entitlement. Nobody wants students to lose the privilege as the Prom is a school highlight.

I also told students that a major positive factor in Year 11 is that they get to see more of me. You should have seen their little faces.

I once again focused upon my '*Happy, Healthy, Successful*' mantra. I told Year 11 we would never give up on them. My final message was: *Work Hard. Be Nice. No Excuses.*

Please contact us should you have any concerns. Also, any suggestions are welcome as we embark upon what I assure you will be a positive year.

NIGEL GRIFFITHS
Headteacher