

Moorside High School
Cellarhead Road
Werrington
Staffordshire
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Tel: 01782 551200
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www.moorsidehigh.net
Headteacher Mr S N Clarke

BS/JK

12 September 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back to this, your child's final year at Moorside High School. It goes without saying that this is the most important year of their school career so far and will culminate in their GCSE examinations. For many pupils this year will at times, be stressful; it is therefore important that we work together to fully support them through this period.

Each pupil has been given a calendar of important events for the year which also acts as a countdown to the start of their examinations, and I have attached a copy of this calendar so that you too are fully informed of key dates.

I would like to highlight the following differences for Year 11 pupils.

Period 6 – every day

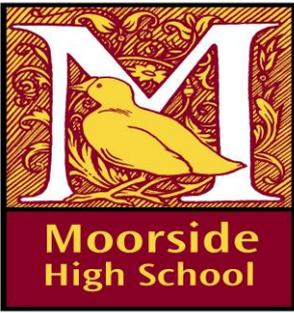
For a significant number of years now our Year 11 pupils have benefited from an extension to their school day. Their teachers feel that the extra hour of teaching and revision has been hugely beneficial to pupils and they are therefore, happy to give up this time to support them. This extra lesson is formally timetabled and is a compulsory part of their school day; non-attendance without a very good reason and parental confirmation will result in pupils receiving a green referral (see section about the Prom).

Up until Christmas, Geography, History and IT teachers will work with small groups of students and you will receive a text message at the start of the week if your child will be staying for that session. For all other subjects the reverse is true. Pupils are expected to attend every week and you will receive a text if a session is cancelled for any reason so that you are aware to expect your child home an hour earlier than normal. I have also attached a copy of this timetable.

After Christmas, these sessions will be compulsory for all pupils in all subjects as they will be vital for your child's revision efforts.

Engage and Achieve





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Work Experience 21/10 – 25/10

Mrs Lowe and Mrs Grant are working hard to ensure that as many of our Year 11 pupils as possible experience the world of work during the week before the October half term break. A significant number of our pupils have received offers of further work, fantastic and sometimes moving references for their CV's and even apprenticeships as a result of these placements and I really hope that this year group continue in this tradition. I look forward to visiting some of your children in their placements, and I know that Mrs Lowe, Mrs Grant and the rest of the staff feel the same way.

Mock Exams 2/12 - 18/12

During the last 3 weeks of the Autumn term Year 11 pupils will sit a series of Mock examinations. These will simulate their final examinations as closely as is possible and your child's results will be used in college and apprenticeship applications and references. It is therefore important that they revise thoroughly for these examinations as all apprenticeships and some college courses are extremely competitive.

Parents Evenings 15/10/19 and 15/1/20

As Year 11 is such an important year for our students we hold 2 parent consultation evenings; the first is early in the year to inform you of areas of concern and to talk about revision for the mocks. The second is held at the end of Mock Results Day and is to discuss the results of these significant exams and what your child needs to do to make improvements before the real examinations in May. If your child is to achieve their potential it is crucial that we all work together your attendance at these evenings is therefore crucial to their success.

Revision Skills – TBA

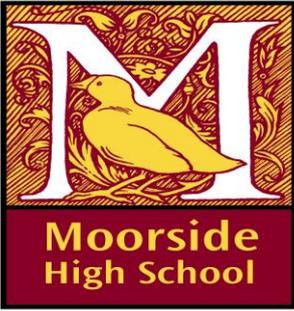
Each year Mr Clarke buys in outside trainers to train our Year 10 and 11 students revision skills. This is therefore at no cost to yourselves but does ensure that our students understand the different ways that they can revise for different subjects. We will let you know the date for this training nearer the time.

Holiday Revision Sessions – dates will be given closer to the time

We know that students start to feel the pressure as they get closer to their examinations and many find the Easter and May half terms especially stressful as they have time away from the knowledge and experience of their teachers. To support your children during this difficult time, many staff opt to run revision sessions during these breaks, nearer the time a timetable for these sessions will be sent home.

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Prom – 2/07

Whilst the focus for Year 11 is their GCSE examinations, the highlight of the year for the majority of students is undoubtedly the Leaver's Prom; this is celebration of your child's time at Moorside. However, they do need to remember that this is also a reward for their hard work and as such an invitation to buy a ticket is dependent on their conduct throughout the year. Year 11 are role models for the rest of the student body and as such should set the standard for the rest of the school. Students will be invited to prom if they have met the following criteria.

- *They have complied with the school uniform code; Year 11 are not exempt from this*
- *They have an attendance record of 95% or above*
- *They have not have received any more than 5 green referrals (including those for missing period 6, either repeatedly or without advanced parental warning)*
- *They have not have received a fixed term exclusion*

We will of course look at cases individually, for example if a student has had a serious illness, or surgery this would be taken into account. However if a student were to fail to meet more than 1 of these criteria then their chances of being invited to the Prom would be significantly diminished.

It is my overwhelming hope that all students in this Year 11 will meet these criteria and will be invited to attend the Leaver's Prom if they wish to do so.

I am particularly happy to be returning to work with this year group as they enter this critical year having spent two years working with them at Key Stage 3. They are a bright and hardworking year group and I fully expect them to achieve an outstanding set of results next Summer. I am also looking forward to working with you again and would encourage you to contact me if you have any queries or concerns about any aspect of this letter, or about your child's welfare or progress at any point during the year.

Yours sincerely

Mrs B Stokes
Head of Year KS4

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