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8<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the final year of your child's education at Grace Academy, I feel it is important to introduce myself as the Head of Year 11 and to outline a few important expectations and key dates. My aim is to support your child to reach their potential. Part of this support will be to track assessment data and implement appropriate interventions. These interventions will also support the time missed in school during the Covid lockdown and we are exploring a range of opportunities to catch up and ensure all students are fully supported during this important year.

**Examination workshops:**

To support student's progress in key GCSE subjects we would like **students in year 11 to attend on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November** where we will be running examination workshops from **09:30 – 12:30**. Students do not have to wear school uniform on that day but should arrive promptly to start at 09:30.

**Additional teacher input:**

Attached is a before and after school revision schedule for all subjects, this will begin after half term and will run throughout the year. **We would also like to inform you of a change to the staggered start time to 8.20am for year 11 students** so they can receive additional teacher input in the morning to support their progress and make up for any curriculum time lost. The after-school sessions will finish at 3.50pm.

**Attendance:**

National statistics show that good attendance is linked to student's progress. I'm sure you will agree that this is the most crucial year for your child to attend school every day to allow them the best opportunity to learn and succeed. It is therefore paramount that holidays are not taken within the school term. I would also strongly recommend that holidays are not booked for the Easter holidays and Whitsun half term, this is because a structured revision timetable will be arranged for your child to attend sessions put on by their teachers. This has proved highly successful over the last few years and is undoubtedly a valuable experience for your child to succeed.

During Year 11 tutor sessions I will be introducing the school prom as an end of year celebration. This will be subject to the lifting of Covid restrictions and an invite to the prom will be linked to good progress, attendance, punctuality and behaviour throughout the year. Further information will be sent home through the year.

**Proposed Key dates 2020/21 – subject to restrictions and government guidelines:**

8<sup>th</sup> October – 14<sup>th</sup> October – AP1 Mock exams for Maths, English, Science and Humanities

21<sup>st</sup> January - KS4 Parent Review Day 12.00-7.00pm

11<sup>th</sup> March - Parent Exam Booster Evening 6.00-7.00pm

18<sup>th</sup> March - Year 11 Intervention Day 8.30-11.30am

Virtual Post 16 Open Evening – details to follow

Parent career information evening on Post 16 options (sixth form, college & apprenticeships) – details to follow

Grace Academy is part of Tove Learning Trust, a multi-academy trust whose Company Registration Number is 07525820 .

Registered Office Address: c/o Sponne School, Brackley Road, Towcester, Northants NN12 6DJ

[www.graceacademy.org.uk](http://www.graceacademy.org.uk)





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### Parent/carer workshops and webinars:

Grace Academy is part of the Solihull Schools Careers Hub which works closely with the Careers and Enterprise Company to provide relevant and up to date information about career topics and the events available to students and the community. The link below is for the **Solihull - My Choices broadcast** taking place on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 5pm – 6.30pm. This broadcast is aimed at young people and their parents or carers who are thinking about their next steps and the choices they face about education, training or employment after year 11.

The broadcast contains an overview of the different pathways available and information about what you need to consider. The “Live Chat” function will allow you to ask questions directly to a panel including a careers advisor, training provider, college, university and employer who can make sure you have access to the information you need. Registration is required to access the broadcast on the day.

To register please visit <https://learnliveuk.com/partner/solihull-my-choices/>

Over the past few years we have also worked with the Elevate Education company who have provided year 11 students with workshops on study skills and exam success. We are pleased to announce that parents of Grace Academy have exclusive access to Elevate Education’s Parent Webinar Series: **Empowering Parents to Reinforce Study Skills at Home**. The free webinars run **online** from **6pm – 7pm**. The Webinars are live, where a senior presenter shares Elevate’s key research and skills, plus answers questions so parents can get the specific tools they need.

### Topics Covered:

- **14/10 - Time Management:** How to resolve battles over homework and workload, get on the same page and help balance life & academics.
- **10/11 – Exams:** Developing a pre-exam roadmap with your child to maximise their chances of success.
- **01/12 - Stress & Wellbeing:** Understanding your child’s stress triggers, symptoms, and a tool-kit for stabilising during tough periods.

To Register before the events please use the link here: <https://get.elevatecoaching.info/uk/register>

I look forward to your support throughout the year and If you require any further information or support, please don’t hesitate to contact me – [louiseknight@graceacademy.org.uk](mailto:louiseknight@graceacademy.org.uk) or Mrs Reeves – Assistant Head of Year 11.

Yours sincerely

**Mrs L. Knight**  
**Head of Year 11**