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Dear Parent/Carer,

### RE: Exam Preparation

As you will know the final examinations are fast approaching, with **only 10 more school weeks left** before students' terminal exams begin. In fact, **in many cases students have actually already started some of their final exams**, with controlled assessments taking place in subjects like media, music and drama.

Lessons will now be focussed on the final push towards the examinations with key revision taking place that will support students in reaching their potential. As always, we **cannot stress enough the importance of attending every single day**, especially in these final few weeks. Attending every day will ensure students get all the support they need to achieve the best possible grades, which will support their applications to college or apprenticeships, and will have a positive impact on their future careers. We know **students with good attendance on average achieve more than one grade** better than those who do not.

Staff at Grace Academy Solihull are here to support you and your child in every possible way, so we wanted to remind you of all of the additional support we will be offering in year 11 and what students should be doing at home to support their progress.

The additional information below outlines the following support areas:

- In-School Tutoring
- Progress Workshops
- Student Rewards
- Attendance Support
- "How to revise" sessions and revision resources
- Countdown Booklets
- A quiet space for students to work

#### **In-School Tutoring**

As we approach the final 10 weeks we have managed to organise for appropriate students to receive additional bespoke tutoring during the school day. These sessions in key academic subjects will support them in achieving a higher grade in these areas.

#### **Progress Workshops (Wednesday and Thursday 2.50 - 3.30 pm) and Grade Booster Packs**

You will be aware that additional time with subject experts is proven to increase the outcomes of students significantly, and every Wednesday and Thursday we are providing your child with the extra support they need to do well in their final exams. These workshops are structured differently to usual lessons and have been planned to give students extended time to practise examination questions with their peers and with guidance from expert teachers who will give tips and advice on how best to succeed.

These workshops will focus on different subjects each week and your child will be notified of key information during normal tutor time. Subject teachers will be producing and providing all attendees at the progress

workshop a 'resource grade booster' pack. This pack will provide your child with additional key revision guidance on how to enhance their preparation for the final exams.

Due to the importance of these sessions, **we expect all students to attend the subject progress workshops each week** to allow them the best opportunity to consolidate learning and succeed in their final exams. With approximately 10 school weeks left before the first GCSE exam, these workshops will be planned to target the exact skills your child needs to progress and perform to their true potential.

### **Rewarding students**

Attendance to these **subject progress workshops** is crucial and will not only support your child's final grades but they can also earn several rewards such as free photographs at the prom, daily spot rewards and entry into a bigger end of term prize draw. In addition to this, attendance to the majority of these sessions will be rewarded with a free prom ticket.

### **Attendance Support**

As mentioned we know that national statistics show that good attendance is linked to student progress and those with higher attendance achieve at least 1 grade higher through the year. To support you in ensuring regular attendance, if your child's attendance drops below the expected level, the school will continue to contact you regularly, as well as providing in-school support, home-visits, and providing transport to the academy by collecting students on the mini-bus. We hope with this help, everyone's attendance will improve to the expected level.

### **"How to Revise" Sessions and Revision Resources**

The school has already provided resources to support revision at home including relevant revision guides in key subjects. In addition to this we will be running "How to Revise" tutor sessions which will give your child guidance on the best ways to prepare for examinations, as well as a session for parents/carers on how to best support your child. We will also be providing additional resources needed to support your child's revision at home i.e. post-it notes, exercise books, flash cards etc.

### **Countdown Booklets**

Teachers have carefully planned the revision for the final weeks with lots of examination and revision material structured perfectly to support your child in scheduling what they should be revising at home each week, in each subject. To support students, teachers have collated this work into Countdown Booklets which students will receive shortly. We would expect students to complete one of these booklets each night. A suggested schedule may be Monday - Maths, Tuesday - Science, Wednesday - English, Thursday - History/Geography with Friday, Saturday & Sunday then used for additional independent revision and exam paper practice in areas the students feel they need more work on. If you need any additional resources to support with this, please let us know.

### **A quiet space to prepare**

Finally, to support revision at break, lunch-time and afterschool we are creating a designated quiet space for year 11 students only to access and complete independent study in. This time could be utilised to complete countdown booklets, grade boosters, or other revision materials.

During an upcoming Year 11 assembly we will introduce the school prom as an end of year celebration and will inform students that an invite to the prom will be linked to good progress, attendance to school and progress workshops, punctuality and behaviour throughout the year. Further information regarding this and the potential rewards that students can secure will be provided at a later date.

We would also strongly recommend that holidays are not booked for the Easter break (Mon 25 Mar – Fri 05 Apr) and Whitsun half term (Mon 27 May – Fri 31 May), as there will be a structured revision timetable arranged for these times for all year 11 students. This has proved highly successful over the last few years and is undoubtedly a valuable experience that will contribute positively to your child's success.

We look forward to your support through the remainder of this academic year, however if you require any further information or support, please do not hesitate to contact any one of us:

- Miss Adams, Head of Year 11 - [konniedams@graceacademy.org.uk](mailto:konniedams@graceacademy.org.uk);
- Mrs Knight, Head of Post 16 & Yr 11 academic support - [louiseknight@graceacademy.org.uk](mailto:louiseknight@graceacademy.org.uk);
- Miss Coombes, Assistant Head of Year 11 - [ccoombes@graceacademy.org.uk](mailto:ccoombes@graceacademy.org.uk).

Yours sincerely,



Mrs L. Knight  
**Assistant Principal: Head of Post 16 & Yr 11 academic support**

Miss K. Adams  
**Head of Year 11**