



HEADTEACHER: MELISSA ROBERTS

LONDON ROAD, TRENT VALE, STOKE-ON-TRENT, ST4 5NT

BS/hr/Y11
21st October 2022

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

The Year 11s have made a brilliant start to their final year with us at St Joseph's and I am so pleased with the maturity and hard work they have shown so far. This year will be one of mixed emotions and I know it can be a year tinged with anxieties and stresses relating to next steps and GCSE exams as well as happiness and hope for the future.

The year group have already had their first assembly about post-16 options, and you are all invited to attend the **St Joseph's Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday the 3rd November at 7:00pm**. In the next few weeks, students will be receiving information about other local post 16 providers and the courses on offer, so that they can make the best-informed decisions about their futures. Year 11s have also been advised to make career appointments to discuss options on a one-to-one basis with our specialist advisor.

During the academic year, Year 11 will also sit two sets of GCSE mock examinations, the first of which will commence on Monday 21st November. This is a chance for students to experience the rigour of GCSE examinations, whilst also giving them the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the examination process. We hope that this will alleviate some of the uncertainties or anxieties surrounding summer exams, and will ensure students are well equipped and well prepared. As with any Year 11 mock, formal GCSE exam conditions apply. For all rules regarding mocks and GCSEs, please visit the 'Academic Life' section of the St Joseph's website where you will find all external exam information. Whereas, Form tutors will explain the rules regarding exams after half term, it is important that both students and parents familiarise themselves with the official guidance on the website. A mock examination timetable will be sent to all students.

There will be a chance to discuss mock grades, predicted grades, and next steps at the Year 11 Parents' Evening on the 5th of January 2023. The next set of Year 11 mocks will take place on the week commencing the Monday 27th February 2023.

During their PD lessons, all of Year 11 have been working on preparing for exams, including how to create revision timetables, how best to revise, and how to cope with exam stresses. Furthermore, all Form time after half term will be dedicated to study skills sessions led by the form tutor; these sessions will focus not just on revision techniques, but also the importance of relaxation.

Subject teachers, in all faculties, have shared revision topics for the mocks so students should know what will be tested. This has either been shared via Satchel One, Teams, or in class. They have also signposted students to suitable revision guides.

We have emphasised to the year group that exam stress is perfectly normal and natural, and can actually help the body and mind to perform to the best of its ability. This academic year is focused on how to help Year 11s achieve their potential so they can go on to have happy and successful futures, which they all deserve.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Ms B Sealey
Head of Year 11

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