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BS/MR

2nd September 2011

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 11 students

I do hope that you all enjoyed the summer break and welcome you to year 11. Together with you we will be working in partnership with your son/daughter to support and guide them through the most important ten months of their school life. A year from now they will have started college courses or employment!

There are just two and a half terms (161 learning days!) between now and their GCSE exams. It is vital to ensure that deadlines are met for homework and coursework. In discussion with many of you, I know that you are keen to help your son/daughter manage the work, rest, play (socialise!) balance effectively therefore I have enclosed overleaf a list of all the **key dates** for your information. May I suggest that these dates are displayed prominently or included in your family calendar. I will update them when necessary.

May I also emphasise that attendance and punctuality as close to 100% as possible are crucial factors in success at GCSE. In this final year, it is vital to avoid being off school for all but **extreme illness** and we will not be permitted to authorise any holidays during this important year, because controlled assessments and modular will be taking place throughout the academic year. A student exam guide will be issued by the end of September, which explains the rules and regulations governing public exams.

We have high expectations of these Year 11 students, every respect (behaviour, learning and leadership). They will be leading our student community this year and setting the tone for our school as a whole, as well as working towards their GCSE's which will provide a vital 'passport' to their future. Our motto this year is: 'Be the best you can be' – we cannot ask more of them than that!

Through assemblies and their form tutors, we are encouraging them to set realistic targets and to be dedicated and committed to achieving them. We are focusing on how they want to feel on 23rd August 2012 (their GCSE results' day) – elated, joyful, proud, knowing that they've done their best. There is **NO SUCH THING** as 'no homework' as students should be consolidating each day's learning by practising the revision techniques best suited to their preferred style of learning. A reminder that the 'Letts GCSE Study Skills Guide' issued at the start of Year 10 is invaluable in this respect. Please encourage your son/daughter to use it. Revision should be constantly ongoing from now until June 2012!

This week students have received the Prospectus (containing application forms) for Bridgwater College and advice re applications. Careers guidance will be available at school this year; please do not hesitate to contact Mr Poole with any queries in this respect.

There is no doubt that, for you as parents, for the students and for us, there will be stresses, strains and anxieties along the way, but by us all working closely together they will 'weather the storms'. There are no problems – only solutions! It is really important to deal with any 'issues' quickly, so please do not hesitate to contact either the form tutor or myself if you have any queries or concerns so that we can minimise/remove any barriers of learning.

Although we have no major changes to our Year 11 tutor team, we are pleased to welcome Mrs Odams (who we know well) to assist Mrs Solomon in tutoring 11JV, as Mrs Solomon is now part-time.

I am very proud to be Head of these Year 11 students, I really enjoy their company and working with them each day. I wish them a successful final year and hope that each one of them will make the most of all the opportunities available to them, day by day.

PLEASE WOULD YOU SIGN AND DATE YOUR SON/DAUGHTER'S PLANNER TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THIS LETTER.

Yours sincerely

Mrs B Smith
Pastoral Team Leader Year 11

KEY DATES FOR YEAR 11 STUDENTS

2011

Wednesday 7 th September	-	School Photographs
W/C 3 rd October	-	BTEC Music Controlled Assessment / Drama Controlled Assessments in lessons.
W/C 10 th October	-	English Controlled Assessment in lessons / Drama Controlled Assessment in lessons.
W/C 17 th October	-	English Controlled Assessment in lessons / Drama Controlled Assessment in lessons.
Tuesday 18th October	-	Bridgwater College Open Evening
Friday 21 st October	-	INSET DAY
W/C 24 th October	-	HALF TERM
W/C 31 st October	-	English Controlled Assessments in lessons.
Friday 4 th November	-	College Inset: All Diploma & Link - Students to attend school.
Wednesday 9 th November	-	Linear Maths Exam (p.m.)
Monday 14 th November	-	Maths Resits – Unit 2 (a.m.)
	-	Linear Maths Exam (a.m.)
Tuesday 15 th November	-	Science Objective tests (a.m.)
Wednesday 16 th & Thursday 17 th November	-	Year 11 Enterprise Day (period 1 – 4 only)
Thursday 24 th November	-	Bridgwater College Taster Mornings.
W/C Monday 28 th November	-	English Controlled Assessments in lessons.
W/C Monday 28th November– Tuesday 13th December - Mock Exams		
Tuesday 29 th November	-	Reports issued to Parents.
Thursday 1 st December	-	Target Review Evening.
Friday 2 nd December	-	Target Review Day – appointments only
W/C 5 th December	-	English Controlled Assessments in lessons
Friday 16 th December	-	End of Term

2012

Wednesday 4 th January	-	Spring Term Starts
Tuesday 17 th January	-	GCSE History (Crime/Punishment) Resit (p.m.)
Wednesday 18 th January	-	GCSE RS Ethics Resit (p.m.)
Friday 20 th January	-	Mock Exam Results Day
Monday 23 rd January	-	GCSE History (American West)
Tuesday 24 th January	-	GCSE Biology (a.m.)
Wednesday 25 th January	-	English Functional Skills (a.m. & p.m.) – Diploma Students only
Thursday 26 th January	-	GCSE Chemistry (a.m.)
Monday 30 th January	-	GCSE Physics (p.m.)
Friday 10 th February	-	Year 11 Photographs
W/C Monday 13 th February	-	HALF TERM
Thursday 1 st March	-	Science Objective tests (a.m.)
Friday 2 nd March	-	GCSE Maths Resits Unit 1 (p.m.)
W/C Monday 5 th March	-	GCSE English Controlled Assessments in lessons
Monday 5 th March	-	GCSE Maths Resits – Unit 2 (p.m.)
Thursday 15 th March	-	Bridgwater College Open Evening
Thursday 22 nd March	-	Year 11 Parents Evening with subject staff and tutors.
Monday 26 th March	-	Progress Review sheets to parents
Weeks commencing 2 nd / 9 th April	-	EASTER HOLIDAYS – Revision Conference – dates/times to be confirmed.
Monday 16 th April	-	INSET DAY
Wednesday 18 th April	-	Year 11 – Q.V. (Qualities & Values) Day
W/C 23 rd April	-	GCSE English Controlled Assessments in lesson.
W/C 30 th April	-	GCSE English Controlled Assessments in lesson.
	-	GCSE Drama External Exam Assessments.
Monday 7 th May	-	BANK HOLIDAY
Monday 14 th May	-	GCSE Music (a.m.)
FINAL GCSE EXAMS COMMENCE – 14TH MAY and end 27th June – individual timetables will be issued around Easter time. English Language and English Literature resits will take place along with the other exams.		
W/C 4 th June	-	HALF TERM
Tuesday 12 th June	-	Bridgwater College Open Evening
Wednesday 27 th June	-	Prom
Thursday 28 th June /Friday 29 th June	-	College welcome days.
Thursday 23 rd August	-	GCSE RESULTS DAY
November 2012	-	Presentation Evening