

AMW/jr
3 January 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians

As you will be aware, in order to support our Year 11s further and develop their learning beyond the classroom we have been running the Extra Support Programme (ESP) after school.

These sessions are run by subject staff for each subject in order to give students additional support, guidance and focus to help them prepare for their GCSE examinations. The aim is to provide students with an opportunity to speak to staff and work with them to provide the best opportunity possible to prepare for their exams this summer. As we begin the final full term of Year 11 we would like to highlight the importance of attendance at ESPs. We know from past experience that these sessions make a significantly positive difference to students' confidence and outcomes in the summer exams.

Some key points about ESPs:

- We strongly recommend that students attend all their sessions to support their studies. Historically the students who have engaged with the programme have benefited greatly from it and have performed better in their final exams
- ESPs start by 3.15pm. We suggest students bring a snack and a drink that they can have before the session starts.
- ESPs will finish by 4.15pm at the latest but most departments will run short, focused sessions that will not take the entire hour.
- Students **cannot** go to a different subject instead of their timetabled ESP if there is an ESP in one of their subjects on that night.
- If an ESP is not running or it is 'invite only' we recommend that students do some independent study for that subject on that night. Often this will be guided by their class teacher as to what to do and subject areas will offer a drop in room where students can arrange to call in to see a subject specialist who can help them. Alternatively, the LRC is available to students each day from 3pm - 5pm except for a Thursday when it is available from 3pm - 4pm.
- Class teachers will be able to advise students on which room to go to. Usually it is their normal classroom for that subject.
- Where a subject does not have an ESP running it may be because they feature later in the term when a topic or skills need to be covered. All subject areas will offer ESP support at least once per half term.

Students and parents will be sent an ESP timetable in advance for the coming half term. This will outline the focus of ESPs in each subject and whether they are compulsory for all or for invited students. There will always be a drop in room regardless.

If you have any questions about the ESPs please contact your child's tutor or subject teacher to see if they can help you. If not, then either Mr Milburn, Year 11 DOPA or myself.

Yours faithfully

Mrs A Warner
Assistant Headteacher

Mr B Milburn
Year 11 Director of Progress and Achievement