

29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear parents and carers

**Congratulations to our latest Stars of the Week.** They are the students from each year group who have earned the highest number of Achievement points this week and there are some brilliant top scores: Y7 J Taylor Carrington, T Finnegan-McNeil, A Joyce, R Pickering, F Rainey (all with 35+) Y8 C Evans, L Journeaux, S Thomson, C Walker, K Mills, L Brook, M Chadwick, J Ralphson (all with 30+) Y9 E Gac, S Turner, M Bagshaw, G Brown H Raza (all with 27+) Y10 B Ashcroft, E Burton, M Brookes, L Beasley, F Leach, E Leigh (all with 30+) Y11 B Worrall, T Taylor-Connearn, M Thomson, P Dobbin, C Carroll, H Collins, C Wales, A Corkhill, H Goggins, E Kendall, A Livesey, J Phillips-Allwork (all 20+) and to top Y11 GEMS+ students: B Worrall, J Penlington, C Wales. Remember - Achievement points are awarded for effort and engagement as well as for high quality work.

### Y11 message

Well done to those Y11 students who have watched my short video message. If your child hasn't yet taken time to watch it, please encourage them to do so. It is very important that Y11 students stay connected to all aspects of school life, and that they are aware of the support available to them as well as the high expectations we have of them. Whilst we await the deadline for the consultation on how GCSE results will be awarded in the summer, and will then await the response from DfE/Ofqual via a direction from the Secretary of State for Education, we know that grades students achieve will still be robustly assessed. We understand that there will be no school league tables in 2021, yet these GCSE results will be every bit as important as they always are for our students - not just as indicators of their abilities and efforts, but as preparation for courses and opportunities post-16. As always, we want our students to leave us well-equipped for the next step, not only with the best possible GCSE grades, but with the skills and confidence they will need as lifelong learners.

<https://youtu.be/jqhr38bTwqI>

### Y11 Mock Assessments

There will not be a formal mock exam timetable for year 11s. However, there will be some kind of assessment in all subjects at some point during the first three weeks back after half term. Teachers will inform their own classes exactly when their assessments will be so that students can prepare with plenty of notice.

- Mock assessment week 1 - 22nd to 26th February
- Mock assessment week 2 - 1st to 5th March
- Mock assessment week 3 - 8th to 12th March

The assessments will take place during the normal timetable. This means that minimal virtual teaching time will be lost.

All students in year 11 have been contacted through edulinkone to make sure that they have access to their school Outlook email account. Access to their email accounts will be essential so that teachers can send feedback from the assessments. If any students are still having difficulties accessing their school email accounts, please log the issue with the help desk [help@whitworth.on.spiceworks.com](mailto:help@whitworth.on.spiceworks.com).

Year 11 students have also been contacted through edulinkone regarding the suitability of the device that they are using to complete mock assessments. If they are still working on a device that does not

have a suitable keyboard that would enable them to type and complete their exams (eg. they are using a mobile phone to currently access their lessons) or if their device *DOES NOT* have a camera facility, you or your child need to contact Mrs Ellis in the school office as soon as possible [y.ellis@whitworth.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:y.ellis@whitworth.lancs.sch.uk). Note, year 11 students will be required to have their cameras switched on at all times throughout the exams.

An information sheet regarding the full arrangements for the year 11 mock assessments will be sent out to all year 11 students and their parents/carers early next week. Please keep an eye out for this document.

### **Y10 early warning!**

Many of our Y10 students have managed the switch to remote learning very successfully. However, some students really need to sharpen up their approach. They need to be aware that schools may well have to use evidence from current work being delivered remotely as part of the evidence to support the awarding of GCSE grades in 2022. Missing live/remote lessons or not completing the work set in these lessons will make it very difficult for teachers to make a positive assessment either short term or looking ahead.

### **Virtual work experience**

I issued an invitation to Y10 and Y11 students to apply for a school-funded place on a fantastic weekend of virtual work experience through InvestIn, a London-based organisation led by a group of experienced professionals from some of the world's most competitive careers. The organisation provides students with an immersive experience of their dream career before they start university, so they can get a head-start over the competition.

I am pleased to announce that the following students were selected and have been awarded places: Oliver Jones (Engineering,) Eleanor Higgins (Law,) Hannah Goggins, Payton Walker, Jessica Jones (Filmmaking) and Chloe Carroll (Veterinary medicine.) I wish them every success and I am sure that this experience will give them a clear insight into the career they intend to pursue.

### **When might students return to school?**

I am sure you will have heard the PM's announcement on Wednesday: that schools will not be opening to students other than critical worker/vulnerable children before 8th March. This date is by no means a definite return date: if the rates of transmission and incidence of coronavirus do not fall sufficiently by then, schools will continue to operate as we are doing currently.

### **Y10 Parents' Evening**

Remote Parents' Evening is on Wednesday 3rd February from 4.00-6.00pm and any families who have not yet made appointments with their child's teachers need to do so by the 1st February at 4.00 pm at the latest.

### **Governing Board and School Improvement Partner visit**

The Leadership, Management and Resources Committee meets on the evening of Monday 1st February, and on Tuesday 2nd February the school leadership team will be working with our School Improvement Partner: discussing the challenges, solutions and successes of the current term. Both of these meetings will of course be held remotely.

Finally, as always, best wishes and stay safe.



Mrs G Middlemas  
Headteacher

