

17 November 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Now that we are nearly halfway through the second part of the Autumn term, I thought it would be important for me to update you on a couple of key focus areas in school for Year 11.

We are particularly proud and impressed with how our Year 11 students conducted themselves in the recent set of PPE's. They showed maturity, stamina and perseverance through what was a busy and condensed exam series. We were extremely pleased with the Year group attendance figures to the exams which stood at 96% for the whole week. This figure is testament to the importance our Year 11 students place on their exams. Well done! It is, however, important that the Year group attendance continues to be at this level or greater for the rest of the coming year. If your child's attendance is less than 95% then they are at risk of significantly underperforming in their exams and therefore not fulfilling their potential.

This week's assembly has had a focus on attendance and the importance of attending school, and lessons, as often as is possible. We have a robust procedure in school around absence from school, and a key focus for us currently is developing further the support for students as they return to school following an absence. This includes support through the Form Tutor, the Pastoral Team, and subject teachers during lessons. We would like to take this opportunity to update parents/carers that we have a new Attendance Officer, Helen Holmes. Helen has joined us following the retirement of Sandra Tanner this half term. Helen looks forward to working with our families and students to support school attendance. Please can I also remind parents/carers that all absences must be reported to the Attendance Team via the absence line 01943872315 each day of absence.

Alongside this work on attendance support, we currently have work ongoing with Year 11 around Attitude to Learning in lessons, and we would encourage all parents/carers to look at page 5 of the student planner where the Attitude to Learning criteria is explained. The student planner remains the key tool for communication between home and school, and we appreciate the checking and signing of the planner that you do each week.

Our whole-school focus on reading continues, and the recent Book of the Month (1918: Coming Home) has proved to be very popular. I would like to thank you for your continued support with this and the encouragement you are showing students at home, as well as monitoring and signing off the reading homework each week on pages 17 onwards in the student planner.

Your child has access to our Knowledge Organisers for each subject via their subject's Teams pages, and they have also been given a booklet to support the core subjects of English, Maths and Science. These are really useful documents because they have been put together by your child's teachers to set out for you and your child exactly what it is they need to know and remember over the course of the year at Guiseley School.

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Your child can use these to help make progress. At Guiseley School, we can say our students are making good progress through our curriculum when they are able to remember more, know more and do more in our subjects and lessons. The Knowledge Organisers set out exactly what it is the students need to know and remember in each subject. You can support your child by looking through the content with them, asking them questions about the content, and by asking your child what they can remember about content they have covered in lessons. They will be incredibly useful to support revision throughout your child's GCSE course.

Our assembly next week will be delivered by Mrs Searle, Faculty Lead for Religious Studies and PSHE, and looks at the topic of Anti-Racism, covering different religious perspectives on the topic as well as reiterating the Guiseley Approach in reporting and dealing with this in school. This will be an opportunity for some input for the whole Year group on this important topic, which will then be discussed further during form time.

The final thing is to remind you that tomorrow (Friday 18 November) is a training day, and the school will be closed to students.

Thank you, as ever, for your continued support this term so far, and we in the pastoral team look forward to working together with you as we move through this year.

Yours sincerely

Lisa Ward

Pastoral Leader, Year 11





