

Year 11 Preparation Evening a huge success!

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is a pleasure to write to you at the beginning of Year 11 to provide a review of this half term and inform you of key information and upcoming events.

Year 11 students have made a fantastic start, in what is a pivotal year in their school journey. As a year group we are focussed on the end goal of our students reaping the benefits of all their hard work when they open their results in August. We know there will be some bumps along the road, and we look to support our students in navigating stressful and challenging times, both in and outside of the classroom. Our first event of the year was the Preparation Evening, and it was wonderful to welcome over 140 students, parents and carers to the event. We hope the evening will have a positive impact in providing key information around this academic year, and how you can support your child at home during this time.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support along your child's journey. By working together, we can ensure your child has a successful completion of Year 11 which will create many opportunities for the next step of their journey.

Mr Humpleby and the Year 11 team

Head of Learning, Year 11

Rewards Evening

On Thursday 8th October we welcomed over 40 Year 11 students to our annual Rewards Evening to celebrate their achievements of the previous academic year. Students gained awards across a wide variety of subjects, with awards being given for effort, progress and achievement. The event also included some musical performances from some talented musicians in Year 11, and we look forward to celebrating more achievements in the near future.

93.8%

Current year group attendance for this academic year.

Feature Heading - Attendance

Attendance plays a key factor in the success of our students at GCSE. Below are the statistics around this, with our overall year group target to be 96%. Please continue to support with this at home by getting your child to school on time to reduce any missed learning.

- Attendance of 95% or above (equivalent to missing no more than nine school days) significantly increases a student's likelihood of achieving five or more GCSEs at Grade 5 or above, rising from approximately 57% to 81%.
- Being 30 minutes late every day is equivalent to losing 19 days of learning, which can lead to a drop of more than one grade per subject.
- Missing just 17 days of school in Year 11 can reduce final GCSE grades by, on average, one grade across all subjects.

Year 11 Expectations:

As students have transitioned into Year 11, the vast majority have made an excellent start. There have been however some challenges with the expectations at UHS. As mentioned in the attendance section, we believe the best place for students to learn is in the classroom, however if standards are not met, sanctions will be set. Below are a few key areas where most issues have arisen.

- Mobile Phones - Not being secured in Yondr Pouches at the main gate at the beginning of the school day.
- Lateness – Both to school and arriving to lessons. Students have 5 minutes to transition between periods.
- Homework – All students need to complete their homework which is regularly set to support their subject knowledge and progress.
- Uniform – The uniform policy is available on the website. Students will be sent home in the morning to rectify any issues.

We appreciate your support in preparing your child for the school day to ensure they have a smooth and successful day. Where possible, please communicate any issues ahead of time to the UHS parents' email.

Ongoing Assessments and PPEs:

Year 11 are currently completing in-class assessments across all their subjects. The results of these assessments will be published fully in mid-November. Students, Parents and Carers can access live data through Arbor to see current progress and grades attained in each subject.

PPE2 exam window will commence on Tuesday 5th January – Friday 22nd January. This will replicate the official exams in May. There will be practical exams for some vocational subjects before Christmas, and a full timetable of the exams will be communicated once finalised.

Next Steps and Aspirations:

Many students are beginning to apply for the next steps in their academic journey. Applications for schools and colleges are beginning to open, and it is great to see many students being pro-active and having positive discussions around this. This is also a stressful time with students feeling under pressure to have their next steps in place. We encourage over the half term for students to explore what options are available to suit their aspirations, and the application process behind these. If students have any questions regarding applications, or need guidance in next steps, they can speak to the Year 11 team.

Students should use their forecast grade on their applications, as this is the predicted grade students are expected to achieve in each subject based on their current performance.

Final Messages:

I would like to once again thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to working with you over the final few months of your child's journey through Year 11. Below are some useful links to easily access any information you require.

[Arbor Log in](#)

[UHS Uniform and Equipment policy](#)

[Uniform Assistance Application](#)

Yours Sincerely,

Mr Humpleby and the Year 11 team

Head of Learning, Year 11