

Dear Parents

As your child enters Y11 at Balby Carr we would like to provide you with some useful information about the support that is given to your child during this important year. I would also like to draw your attention to important dates that will be happening throughout the year.

Y11 is the final push towards to their GCSE examinations which will start in approximately 30 school weeks' time. Students are already over half way through their GCSE course. This is an anxious time for both students and parents. During school students will be receiving support and guidance in lessons with teachers giving students valuable input and practice exam preparation as well as guidance to complete controlled assessments. Teachers will also be available after school to support students in their learning and preparation. Students need to start as soon as possible in attending these sessions as they will review work done in Y10 and also reinforce any new learning taking place in lessons. They also provide opportunities for students to practice exam technique. Revision sessions are ongoing after school and happen on different afternoons for different subjects. I have attached the afterschool session timetable for your information.

Parents often ask for ways in which their child can revise at home, so to help students with their revision I have enclosed a list of revision guides that have been recommended by the teachers in school and that you can order through school. To order any revision guide please tick the guides that you require and return the list to school with payment. All cheques are payable to Balby Carr Community Academy and orders will be placed when money is received. I will also put a copy on the school website under Parent Information.

I have also enclosed information about really useful revision websites that are available to students through the school portal. These have a range of subjects on them and different ways to revise including games, videos and podcasts.

During the school half term and end of term holidays there will also be various sessions organised to support students and information about these will be sent out nearer the time. During ASPIRE times in the morning students will be going through revision timetabling, revision techniques, how to manage exam stress and how to prepare themselves for the busy exam period.

Another key aspect to Y11 is "next steps". Students will receive careers support and guidance in school about what their post 16 opportunities are. Our careers advisor will also be available on parents evening to speak to parents about possible next steps for their child. Students can access information at home by logging onto the school portal where they will find a bank of resources, websites and support to help make post 16 choices.

Once all the hard work is complete, Y11 is also a time to celebrate the success and the effort the students have put in over their first five years at Balby Carr Community Academy. As always we will end Year 11 with our graduation ceremony which is a fantastic event and the students look fabulous in their caps and gowns. We will then host our final celebration which will be the Y11 prom. This event is a chance for staff and students to celebrate the hard work put in throughout the last 5 years and as an Academy we are keen to ensure that students who attend the prom are those students who have consistently met the expectations of the Academy. It is unfortunate that each year a small number of students fail to do this and so are not invited to the prom.

For students to attend the prom they need to ensure that they:

- Are attending school regularly with **97% attendance or above** – attendance in Y11 is vital to be successful at GCSE
- Have a positive attitude to learning and the classroom expectations and so have **no more than 2 withdrawals per half term.**
- Show respect for the Academy and its expectations and so **have no more than 3 inclusion periods during school year.**
- Take pride in wearing the Balby Carr uniform and have **no more than 3 uniform violations in the school year**
- Punctuality to lessons and Aspire time is just as important as attendance so students do not miss out on vital information. Students will need to have **no more than 100 mins of lates throughout the school year.**
- **Any serious breach of the Academy's expectations will result in non-attendance to the prom.**

As we are at the beginning of the year all students are currently welcome to attend but students need to ensure that they are making the right choices throughout the year so no one is disappointed in June. As the year progresses we will alert parents to situations where your child may be falling behind in some of these expectations. Please ensure you do not go to the expense of buying outfits until we have confirmed a place at the prom for your child. As a school we would like all students to attend the prom as it is a truly fantastic evening.

Finally I would like to draw your attention to some key dates:

Key dates:

October 2015 - Balby Carr 6th form information evening – the date will be confirmed shortly

Monday 19th October – Y11 photos

Thursday 22nd October – Y11 parent evening

W/C 23rd and 30th November – Practice exams

W/C 15th and 22nd Feb – Practice Exams

Thursday 17th March – Y11 Parents evening

W/C 16th May – GCSE exam period starts

Graduation and prom will take place at the end of June. Dates will be confirmed and communicated to parents.

For parents wishing to book holidays at the end of Y11 we recommend that parents wait until the beginning of July to ensure all exams etc. are finished.

If you have any questions about the information enclosed or about any issues regarding Y11 please feel free to contact any member of the KS4 team.

Yours sincerely



Miss E Cutting

Head of Key Stage 4