

Dear Parent/Carer,

And just like that, we're back! It was wonderful to see all Year 11 students together again today, in what was a very calm and enjoyable first day back. I wanted to say a big thank you to all students for their excellent conduct and cooperation throughout the day.

What are we doing to support?

I am extremely proud and pleased to inform you that our successful support programme for Year 11 students this year has been enhanced. We have listened to student worries and concerns detailed in the summer Year 10 to Year 11 transition survey, and have adapted our intervention programme as a result.

We will be running our high quality revision programme, which will include AM registration and after school sessions for an array of subjects, to ensure we provide targeted support for all our students' needs. I am delighted to inform you that we will again be running our 'How to Revise' programme; this time much earlier, commencing the week beginning Monday 20th September. These sessions will aim to help students develop generic revision skills and improve their preparation for their GCSE examinations. A letter will follow in the near future with guidance on how to sign up for these sessions. Looking ahead to the future, we will continue to support students with their post-16 preparation by offering the annual careers convention and 'Navigating Success' evening. Students will also be able to get 1:1 careers guidance with our experienced advisor within school.

We understand that everyone will have had different experiences over the past year and a half, and the effects on students' emotional well-being will be varied. As always, we are fully committed to ensuring the best possible pastoral care experience for your son(s)/daughter(s) at the Stanway School. We will continue to provide a comprehensive well-being offer to help support students through their final year. This includes our mentoring programme, improved PSHE curriculum, and various targeted interventions based on need.

We understand how important Year 11 is and to support you over the coming year, we offer parents and students additional guidance about the year ahead. We are delighted to announce the return of our in-person Navigating Success evening following the lifting of government COVID-19 restrictions. This will be on **Thursday 16th September** and will outline all the information you and your son(s)/daughter(s) will need to know to navigate through Year 11 successfully, ensuring you are all fully prepared for what is to come. We will be covering;

- Who the Year 11 team is and who to contact
- Building resilience
- Revision tips, 'How to Revise' programme preview, and Pomodoro revision
- Exams and how to prepare for them
- 2022 exam changes
- Key dates for your diary
- What the school is going to support throughout Year 11
- How to best support your child during Year 11
- Post 16 options and next steps

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On the day, we will run 3 sessions (4.30pm, 5.15pm, and 6.00pm). This will include a talk, the 'How to Revise' preview, and a post-16/careers talk, with opportunities to talk to staff from post-16 establishments such as Colchester Sixth Form, Colchester Institute, Sigma Sixth and Writtle University College. To book your tickets for your desired session please visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-stanway-school-year-11-navigating-success-evening-tickets-169475749529>

On this date, we will also update you on the government changes to GCSE courses for the 2022 summer exams. Unfortunately, at this current time, I cannot provide you with any more information on arrangements for the 2022 summer exams as these have yet to be finalised by the government.

What do we need from your child(ren)?

As many of you will know, we have a set of standards for how we behave at the Stanway School. This is called the Stanway Standard. This unites our 5 core values of being considerate, responsible, proud, respectful and determined. We expect students to continue demonstrating these values on a day to day basis. When I first became Head of Year, I shared the quote 'Never dream of success. Work for it'. I feel that is more fitting now than it was then. I hope we can work together over the coming months to emphasise the importance of our ethos, so your son(s)/daughter(s) has/have the best possible chance of success this year. Therefore, we will constantly look to challenge students to be their very best and we will continue to do this over the next half term. It is important that students are attending when they are able, on time for school and in the correct uniform. It is these small things that empower the best atmosphere for learning. If you could take time to ensure that pencil cases are well stocked, it would be greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,

Mr Elbourne
Head of Year 11