

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Year 11 Curriculum Overview – Half Term 2**

We are immensely proud of how Year 11 students have tackled the challenge of their November Trial Exams. Students have really taken on board how valuable these run-throughs are – a vital learning step towards the all-important GCSE examinations this summer.

Of course, much lesson time this half term has gone into ensuring that students entered their exams feeling well prepared. In English, students have been revising Macbeth and poetry for the literature element, as well as preparing carefully for the non-fiction reading and writing required on English Language Paper 2.

In Science, Year 11 students are learning the big ideas within ecosystems, Earth and forces. This includes knowledge and skills from Paper 2 across the scientific disciplines. For example, they will gain understanding of the role different species play in an ecosystem, biodiversity and how the Earth's atmosphere has changed over time.

In maths, students are learning, revising and applying a vast range of topics including In maths this half term your child will be learning, revising and applying the following topics including Pythagoras, pie charts, ratio, laws of indices, standard form, rounding and estimating, expanding double brackets, sequences, substitution and angles in parallel lines.

Students continue to thrive within their option subjects. Those students who study GCSE French or Spanish are building on their understanding of 'the world of work' – learning to discuss in sophisticated detail their preferred future careers. Geographers are learning about coastal landscapes and completing local urban fieldwork, while sociologists are unpicking social stratification, poverty and different types of political power. Our talented GCSE musicians continue to refine their solo performances and gaining a deeper understanding of the music of Bach. In all subjects staff are working closely with students to ensure that they are learning how to revise effectively. Students are coached on the most effective memorisation techniques and how to organise and manage their workload.

Naturally, as students progress through Y11 our PSHE focus shifts to careers - with a particular emphasis on preparing students for life after GCSEs and school. Students are being reminded about the different pathways into the workplace. They will be prompted to reflect on their interests, skills, hobbies and values which they need to consider when making post-16 choices. They will also be given some time to explore post-16 courses, apprenticeships and places of study. They will finish the term by thinking about how to successfully prepare for an interview as well as how to write an effective personal statement – ensuring that they can confidently take the next steps on their own journey.

Year 11 is an incredibly busy year. Staff and students agree that it moves very quickly – so we thank all parents/carers for continuing to support their children's studies by ensuring they arrive punctually to school each day – equipped, prepared and ready for learning. Should you have any questions or comments linked to your child's learning, please contact the relevant faculty as outlined below.

Kind Regards,

Mr M Kilgannon

**Assistant Vice Principal**

**Aston Academy**

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