

September 2015



Brentwood County High School

Year 11 High Lines

Newsletter from Greg Justham, Year 11 Champion

Good evening

I would like to introduce myself, Greg Justham, as the nominated person to oversee Year 11 academic progress at BCHS. Along with Mr Richardson, your son or daughter's form tutor and their Head of House, we make up the team of staff who will support Year 11 students through their final GCSE year.

I would like to take this opportunity to discuss a few changes to the way in which we will work with Year 11 students at BCHS, in order for them to fulfill their potential, when the exam season starts *in just 34 weeks' time!*



Year 11 Study Skills

Our Year 11 students have a fantastic opportunity to become more independent and productive this year. Alongside the school calendar, we are running Study Skill sessions to encourage them to revise/ study using a wider range of techniques.

We have devised a set of 8 useful skills that will be delivered at sessions until mid-April. Students will be invited to attend one of the 6 sessions that are put on over a 3 or 4 week period, where they can learn about how to use the particular skill in their studies and then implement it in their own time. Students are only expected to attend *one* session for *each of the study skills*.

The first batch of sessions have already begun, with 37 students attending for the talk delivered by Miss Derbridge and Mrs Grimshaw on Tuesday morning – a fantastic turn out! The remaining sessions for the first study skill are detailed below and are held in the school library, during am registration:

Tuesday 22nd September

Thursday 24th September

Tuesday 29th September

Tuesday 6th October

Thursday 8th October

Dates	School weeks	Focus
14 th Sept – 9 th Oct	4	Use of specifications
12 th Oct – 6 th Nov	3	Target setting and reviewing
9 th Nov – 27 th Nov	3	Note taking and condensing
30 th Nov – 18 th Dec	3	Repetition
4 th Jan – 22 nd Jan	3	Using technology to revise
25 th Jan – 12 th Feb	3	Using a journey and mind pegs
22 th Feb – 11 th Mar	3	Mind mapping and redecorating
11 th Apr – 29 th Apr	3	Use of others when revising



Year 11 No Homework Policy **Begins Monday 21st September 2015**

If a student in Year 11 does not have their homework on the day that it is due to be handed in on the Student Learning Gateway (SLG), they will be issued with an afterschool detention the following day at 3.30pm in the Mezz.

In addition to this, if a piece of homework is not sufficient, a student will also be issued with an afterschool detention for the following evening for an appropriate amount of time.

The teacher will issue the student with the yellow slip (see mock up below) as soon as it is apparent that they have not completed the homework. The duration will be specified by the teacher and will be one of 20, 40 or 60 minutes (depending on the task set/ quality of the work produced).

As part of this process, a text will be automatically sent to parents and carers informing them of the detention, so that they are aware of the lack of homework and subsequent detention.

The classroom teacher will then attend the start of the detention in the Mezz, in order to ensure the student knows what they are doing.

As a parent or carer, we hope you will re-enforce our school rules, and ensure homework is completed for the required lesson. If there is an occasion where your son or daughter has not completed it, you will be informed of their afterschool detention so that you are aware of their whereabouts that evening.

As a school, we firmly believe that a student's success depends on their attitude to learning – in and out of the classroom, and as a team we can ensure that they fulfill their potential in Year 11.

Year 11 Homework Detention in the Mezz

Name: _____ Form: _____ Subject: _____ Staff: _____

Circle the day to be completed and estimated duration of homework task:

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Frid	20 mins	40 mins	60 mins
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Please state if a computer is needed for this task: Yes / No

Staff must email Miss Hansraj the following information:
Student name, subject, date of detention and duration



Form Time Mentoring

A massive chunk of a Year 11 student's time in school is spent with their form tutor. In fact, over 100 hours of their year will be spent with their form tutor during form time. This means that we need to make good use of this time. Each week, Year 11 students will be taken to a different room with their tutor, in order to have some time to discuss various issues, check through their books and have some time set aside for mentoring. This is something new this year that we feel will improve the tutee's and tutor's relationship, ensuring that any issues are identified early on – allowing us to all act accordingly to support.



Exam Syllabi

A question that students, parents and carers often ask is about which syllabus is being studied, the specification document that they need to have or how they can access past papers and mark schemes.

In order to make this easier we have published all of the information for every subject we teach at GCSE, A-Level and BTEC. You can find the information on the website here:

<http://www.bchs.essex.sch.uk/301/exam-curricula>

We hope this proves to be a useful resource for students, parents and carers.

5th and 6th October: Live-N-Learn Workshops

Over these two days, each Year 11 student will have a total of 2 hours delivered by Live-N-Learn. This organisation specialises in delivering study skills and stress busting workshops. Each group of 40-50 students will be in the main school hall working in small groups towards becoming a better Year 11 student, including the managing of time, stress and using study skills themselves to reach and exceed their potential.



Mr Justham's Surgery

I am available to book for short, 15 minute appointments on Wednesday 7th October between 2pm and 6pm. This is for parents and carers to be able to discuss any issues that may have arisen in the first half term. This is timed well with the first full report released on Friday 2nd October. Please keep an eye out for an email closer to the time that will detail how to book an appointment.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter, if you do have any questions, please feel free to contact myself or your son or daughter's Head of House via the usual channels.

Regards

Greg Justham—Year 11 Champion

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