

26th May 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Re: Step Up Programme - Year 11

We take our duty towards our students very seriously and now that Year 11 have left face:face schooling, we will still be setting subject related work to ensure that students are able to keep their knowledge and skills up to date. This is in case they need to re-sit any exams in the future or to ensure they approach the next step fully prepared. All work will be set on Class Charts as usual.

However, we would also like to offer your child some 'Step Up' TEAMS or face:face sessions during Term 6, linked to some subjects they may have opted to take at Sixth Form or College.

These sessions will take the form of virtual or face:face workshops/overviews of what they can expect next year, or will be a Q&A opportunity for them to quiz teachers about the next level or talk about any worries or concerns they have linked to particular subjects. Teachers may also tailor these sessions to their own passions and interests within their subject disciplines. There will be hints and tips of what else students might do between now and September to ensure that they hit the ground running and feel confident as they embark on Year 12.

Students were asked to opt for subjects they would like to attend before they left, so that we can prioritise those sessions that are more popular and ensure viability. Sessions will take place between the dates of 21/6/21 and 2/7/21. A timetable with TEAMS links will be sent out once we have an idea of who is interested and in which subjects.

It is very important to us that Year 11 feel supported through this 'Step Up' transitional phase and this is one central way we are aiming to do this.

However, we are also signing our students up to 'Be Ready' which is an online platform offering free accredited courses to support them to gain the skills they need for career success, as well as learn the benefits of self-development and lifelong learning. There are a range of courses to tap into, including 'Developing Leadership Skills', 'Foundations of Communication/Resilience', 'Applying for Jobs and Apprenticeships' amongst others. Students are able to download certificates once these free online courses have been completed. We would urge you to take a look at their website: <https://bereadygroup.org/ready-schools/employability-skills-schools/online-content-schools/>, or watch this video <https://vimeo.com/229980346> and have a discussion with your child about the value of using this resource to help prepare them for the next step and their future lives. We are just finalising the login process and details for this and will let students know via Class Charts and email once we have.

Please look out for a communication about this after half term. This service will be available up to 26th June.

In summary then, our 'Step Up' programme of support is as follows:

- Work will continue to be set by teachers on Class Charts;
- A Step Up timetable of sessions to support students with the next phases linked to some subject areas will be sent home soon. These sessions will be virtual (using TEAMS) or face:face, depending on the teachers' preference or practical arrangements (Covid rules will still apply);
- Students should use the Be Ready resources to complete accredited courses linked to careers, self-development and lifelong learning. Login details will follow.

Finally, we are still very much here to support both you and your child through this transitional period so please contact us with any questions or concerns that you may have.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Morgan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Jay Morgan
Assistant Vice Principal – Teaching & Learning