



30 September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Year 11 – ‘Preparing for your Mock Examinations’ Parental Engagement Evening – Monday 11 October 2021

At John Smeaton Academy, we strongly believe that the home-school relationship between the academy, students and parents/carers is a key contributor in the successes and achievements made by young people in relation to their academic studies, future destinations and their mental health and wellbeing. As your child commences their final year at the academy, the home-school relationship will be pivotal in ensuring students attend every-day, feel fully supported in terms of their mental health and wellbeing, with securing the best possible academic outcomes and with transitioning successfully into a post-16 provision of their choice.

Parents and carers play a crucial role in supporting their child’s learning and their mental health and wellbeing. Research shows that levels of parental engagement are consistently associated with better academic outcomes for students. For example, evidence from the Education Endowment Foundation suggests that effective parental engagement can lead to **learning gains of 3 or more months** over the course of an academic year.

Our responsibility as an academy is to ensure:

- parents/carers are fully equipped with the relevant knowledge and tools which will enable them to effectively support their child at home;
- communication between the academy, students, parents/carers is tailored to encourage positive dialogue about learning;
- more sustained and intensive support is given where needed.

On **Monday 11 October 2021**, we would like to welcome you and your child to a **Year 11 Engage Evening**. This evening will be hosted at the academy between **18:00-19:30**, starting with the Principal’s welcome at 18:00 in the Main School Hall.

Parking will be available on site via the main school car park, however, parking space is limited and this will be available on a first come, first served basis.

Entrance to the academy will be via the main entrance and doors will be open from 17:30. A hot meal will be available during the course of the evening. Within this event, students will be provided with a revision resource pack and a revision book which will provide students with some ‘top-tip’ revision strategies. This will be available to collect on the evening.

Soon after our return from October half-term, our Year 11 students will engage in a two-week mock examination series. Throughout the evening, we aim to provide families with some critical information so that your son/daughter can prepare effectively and confidently for their mock examinations. In addition to this, over the course of the evening, we aim to achieve the following objectives:

- to share with students, parents and carers our **Year 11 offer** and ensure you are familiar with the key dates and events, and that you feel confident about where and how you can seek support should you need this;
- to ensure students, parents and carers understand the **course and assessment structure** for English Literature, English Language and Mathematics;
- to ensure parents/carers leave the evening with **ideas and strategies for supporting their child at home** (incl. revision strategies, online support, revision guides and mental health and wellbeing strategies);
- to share with students, parents/carers the **science behind the teenage brain** during adolescence and **wellbeing strategies** which can be used by parents/carers at home to support their child. This will be led by an external guest speaker who has previously worked as a professional nurse and counselor.

Please return the reply slip to your child's form teacher no later than Friday 7 October 2021, and also let us know how many of your family intend to come, in order that we can plan for catering accordingly.

We really look forward to working with you and your child on Monday 11 October (18:00-19:30).

Yours faithfully

Mrs L Griffiths
Principal

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Year 11 Mock Examination Engage Evening- Monday 11 October 2021 (18:00-19:30)

We will/will not* be attending (*please delete as applicable) and will need refreshments for people (please insert number of people).

Student Name _____ Form Group_____

Signed: _____ (name of parent/carer)

Date: _____

Please complete and return this slip to your son/daughter's form teacher by Friday 7 October 2021.