

26th September 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian/Year 11 Student

We hope that you had a restful summer and are ready for an important and exciting year ahead. Year 11 is a crucial stage in the educational journey, filled with opportunities, challenges and ultimately, the chance to shape your future. We are delighted to welcome students back and look forward to working together to ensure every young person fulfils their potential.

Important Dates:

This year brings a sharper focus on GCSE preparation, post-16 planning and developing the maturity and resilience all our students need to succeed beyond school. Students will sit their mock examinations from **Tuesday 6th - Tuesday 20th January 2026**, which is valuable preparation for their final exams and help shape revision strategies.

Please note the following:

- The mock exam results will be announced to students on **Friday 6th February 2026**;
- The final exams at the end of Year 11 will take place between **Friday 8th May - Monday 15th June 2026**.

College and sixth form applications must be completed by **February half-term**. The Careers Team will be available to support every student in finding the best next step. In January 2026, each Year 11 student will have a one-to-one meeting with a Careers Advisor to support their college and post-16 applications.

Parents' Evening will take place at Brymore, on **23rd February 2026** (following a Raising Achievement Session), providing opportunities to discuss progress, targets and support. Throughout the year, students will be encouraged to set personal goals, take part in enrichment opportunities and celebrate their achievements.

'Focus Sessions' will begin in the week prior to the first exam, starting on **Tuesday 5th May 2026**. This is a time where significant focus is put into preparing the students for their exams, where a carefully tailored programme is created. For example, if they have Geography Paper 1 on Tuesday, the boys will spend Monday solely studying Geography to prepare. It is of the utmost importance that the students fully engage in these sessions to enhance their opportunities for reaching their potential in their final exams. If an individual's behaviour falls short of expectations and other students learning is being disturbed, then individual study arrangements will be made for them separate to these sessions.

Extra Support:

Throughout the year, individual departments will be running breakfast revision sessions and/or after school revision sessions, alongside walk and talk mock exam practice. These sessions have proved invaluable for students in recent years in contributing to their success, and as such, are offered to those students that are prepared to work hard in a disruption-free environment. These sessions are not compulsory and will only be offered to students that are prepared to respect the need for focused attention in each session.

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Expectations:

Being a Year 11 student at Brymore Academy comes with additional responsibility. The **white shirt** is a visible symbol of maturity, leadership and status within the school community. It is a privilege, not a right, and it represents high standards of behaviour, effort, and respect. Year 11 students are role models for younger years and as such we expect:

- A commitment to learning and punctuality,
- Respectful behaviour towards staff, peers and the school environment,
- Positive attitudes in lessons and during independent study,
- Responsibility in representing the school both in and out of lessons.

To maintain the high standards expected of Year 11, we are introducing a clear behaviour accountability system. This system is designed as an opportunity for students to reflect, reset and take responsibility for their actions.

- Each Year 11 student has **three strikes** for serious breaches of behaviour or responsibility. This includes an accumulation of behaviour points, SLT detention, fixed term suspension and other persistent behaviour issues. These will be decided upon at the discretion of the Senior Leadership Team.
- If a student reaches three strikes, the privilege of wearing the white shirt will be removed, and the school will provide a **grey shirt** until they demonstrate consistent improvement.
- A clear review process will be in place to monitor behaviour and recognise positive change. Improvement will be measured through **consistent attendance, punctuality, effort in lessons and positive reports from staff**.

We recognise that Year 11 can feel intense at times, but no student is alone in this journey. Support includes:

- **Careers advice and guidance** from our Careers Team - please see Mrs Featherstone for support here;
- **Help with exam preparation** through after-school sessions, targeted homework and coursework preparation and deadlines, as well as subject-specific clinics at various points in the year;
- **Pastoral support** from Form Tutors, subject teachers, the safeguarding office and senior leaders, alongside our school counsellor and pastoral support team.

Please encourage your child to ask for help if they need it - we are here to support every student.

Year 11 is a year of hard work, determination and reward. We are excited to see our students embrace the challenge and wear the white shirt with pride. With the right mindset and support, every student can achieve success and take the next step with confidence.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to working with you in ensuring this is a successful year for all.

Yours faithfully

Oliver Walby
Assistant Headteacher