

3rd October 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian

**Supporting your Son with his GCSEs -
Progress Report, Course Information, Raising Achievement in English and Maths**

Progress report:

I know it feels as though students have only just returned to school, but Year 11 have almost finished their first half term of their last year with us, meaning 'operation finish line' is drawing ever closer. At this crucial time, it is important that they have as much support as they can. To assist with this, we have already conducted our first data collection, the results of which accompany this letter. In your son's report card, you will see their predicted grades alongside grades for 'Attitude to Learning' and 'Prep Engagement.' Our focus in the coming weeks will be to support the boys in developing their 'Attitude to Learning' as without the right attitude, we all know that everything is an uphill battle.

Year 11 will soon commence a weekly programme of support helping them with self-reflection, goal setting, organising their revision, understanding the science of learning and effective revision strategies, as well as motivation and well-being. These sessions will be accompanied by three small group mentoring sessions with either their tutor or the senior team over the course of the year.

As ever, some students are embracing the challenges of Year 11 with more energy and confidence than others. We know that you will be keen to understand your son's progress so that you can have meaningful conversations at home and as such it's important that you understand how we will be prioritising working with students over the coming months.

If your son was graded	Level of concern
'Ambitious' or 'engaged' across the board	No concerns and currently on track to achieve their full potential.
Ambitious or engaged with only one or two 'passive' or reluctant' grades	Overall doing well. Any issues confined to individual areas which will be addressed by those departments.
'Passive' or 'reluctant' in four or more places	We have concerns that they may be at risk of underachieving in certain areas.
'Passive' or 'reluctant' in six or more places	We have concerns that they may be at risk of significantly underachieving.

Course Information:

Accompanying this letter, you will also receive a course information booklet outlining what Year 11 will be studying this year as well as information about exam boards and important dates.

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Raising Achievement in English and Maths:

Our current Year 11's will be sitting more exams than ever before, some will sit as many as twenty, and therefore we want to support them, and you, in every way we can.

One way we have looked to do this is maximising the time they have in the classroom and exploring ways to make their mock exams more meaningful. For the last few years Year 11 have sat two full rounds of mock exams, one in November and one in March. Whilst these mocks are undoubtedly a valuable experience and a chance to practise, each set takes students out of the classroom for three weeks. This has meant taking them away from the expertise and knowledge of their teachers for an entire half term in their final year, which, as you can appreciate, is a significant amount of time when they only have four and a half before their exams commence. Therefore, this year, Year 11 will sit only one set of formal mocks starting on 6th January until 20th January 2026.

Having made the decision to run only one set of mocks this year, we want to make sure that they count. For them to be meaningful and informative, in terms of using them as a tool to evaluate strengths and areas for development, before the real exams in June, the boys need to be prepared - in short, they need to have already started revising. We don't necessarily expect students to be achieving their predicted or target grades in January, however ideally, they shouldn't be more than two grades below where they aim to be in May. Students will also have a mock results day and formally receive the grades they secured in their mocks. In what remains of that half term, staff will give them valuable feedback on the papers they sat and complete yet more practice.

To support you and your son prepare for these mocks and subsequently the final exams in May, we host two Raising Achievement sessions each year for parents to attend with their sons. The first of these sessions focuses on the science of learning, what effective revision looks like and how to organise revision. The second session later in the year will focus on how to raise achievement in English and maths, specifically how to secure that all important grade 4 or above. Students who can secure a grade 4 or above in both English and maths will be able to access Level 3 courses without having to re-sit English, maths, or both, during their time at college. Without achieving these grades, students will likely spend an extra year or even longer at college before receiving their next qualifications. Essentially, not passing will result in them taking longer to enter the employment market and start the next stage of their lives. Therefore, we would like to take this opportunity **to invite you to the first Raising Achievement event on Monday 3rd November 2025 at 5pm-6pm.**

It is often hard to know how to support at home without knowing what is expected. By talking directly to you and giving you a clear picture of both the exams themselves and the revision that is required, we hope to empower you to help your son succeed. Parents who have attended these sessions over the past few years have described it as "the most useful hour spent to support our son" and I sincerely hope you will be able to come. It makes a tremendous difference to the boys knowing there are people at home, who are not only able to support them, but also hold them accountable. **The second Raising Achievement session will be prior to Year 11 Parent Consultation on Monday 23rd February 2026.**

We would be grateful if you would complete the Microsoft form for the first Raising Achievement Session on Monday 3rd November 2025 by clicking the link below, by **12 noon on Thursday 16th October 2025, at the latest please**, indicating how many of you will be attending. Alternatively, you are welcome to email the school office email us at: office@brymoreacademy.co.uk with the subject heading 'Monday 3rd November: Year 11 Raising Achievement'.

<https://forms.office.com/e/SXW5a8v36z>

We look forward to seeing you.

Yours faithfully



Jayne Taylor-Lane
Deputy Headteacher