



9<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parent / Carer,

## Welcome to Year 11

As the start of a new academic year gets underway, I wanted to write to share my plans for this very important year in your child's academic journey.

The Mock Exams at the end of the last academic year were challenging, but Year 11 approached them head-on and with great maturity. Feedback from our Exams Officer and Senior Management on their conduct was positive. All Mock papers have now been marked and grades are available for viewing on Go for Schools.

Mock Exams and internal assessments are crucial tools in the educational process. They offer several benefits that contribute to both teaching and learning. They identify strengths and weaknesses, give us a clear performance picture and inform our teaching strategies.

With this in mind, I am eager to make this year's focus centred on exam preparation and academic support for students, as they enter one of their most important years. Planning is in place to support students during tutorial sessions. Revision and intervention will be the focus and study skills sessions will be put in place to help students learn how to revise effectively.

Revision can be daunting, so I recommend studying little and often. Starting early will ease the stress and lead to more effective learning and retention. Curriculum areas will be offering after-School revision sessions; a timetable of these will be shared once finalised later this month.

I am excited for this academic year and am eager for every student in our Year Group to have a successful year, achieving to the best of their ability. I want each student to leave The Buckingham School knowing they did their very best. I hope we all share this goal so we can work together to achieve it.

With the focus firmly shifting to academic success, I want to take this opportunity to reiterate some of our basic requirements. I would prefer not to dwell on uniform and punctuality issues, therefore I am hoping you can support your child in these areas so as a School we can focus on the learning.

Our Uniform Policy remains the unchanged. Common additions appear to be white socks and branded round neck sweatshirts; please can we leave these at home. Tailored black trousers or pleated skirts, black shoes, white shirt, tie and blazers are the requirements. V neck black jumpers can be worn as an additional layer in colder weather. If for any reason your child does not have these items, please can you communicate with the Student Office to ensure we as a School are aware and that unnecessary sanctions are not given out. The staff in the Student Office are keen to work with you to solve any uniform issues that might arise.

During this final year, tutors and I will be the primary contacts for students seeking references for further education courses. These references often include punctuality reports. Therefore, it is essential for students to arrive at school and attend their lessons on time.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued support and we wish our Year 11 students and their families the very best of luck for a successful year ahead.

Yours faithfully,

**Mrs V Jones**

Head of Year 11

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