



**Year 11
Information
Evening
2024**

Introduction

Welcome to Year 11.

This year your child will complete one of the most significant stages of their education.

During Year 11, decisions will need to be made that will have an impact on the rest of their lives. To ensure that as many options as possible remain open to them, much depends on what happens over the coming months.

This evening and this guide are designed to help you support your child through this time. We have included:

- What you can expect from us
- What we expect from your child
- What you can do to encourage their achievement
- Key dates for this year
- Sources of further information

We hope that you find this useful.

Our Partnership

We believe strongly that the best results are achieved when the school, parents and students work together. At the outset we would like to set out our expectations of how we can best work together over this final academic year. Our staff are contactable via the school office or through email.

The Role of the School

All members of Holcombe Grammar School staff are committed to working hard and promoting the best for your children. In addition to subject teachers, there are several key members of staff that will be supporting your child:

The Form Tutors:

11Ar Miss Jhaj / Mrs Caffarena Fernandez

11Ba Mr Evans / Mrs Ortega-Izquierdo

11Co Mr Nanson

11Gu Mr Holdstock

11Sh Mrs Rose/ Mrs Ortega-Izquierdo

Your child's tutor is the central figure responsible for student welfare and progress at Holcombe Grammar School. They are available for consultation and advice on any aspect of your child's progress.

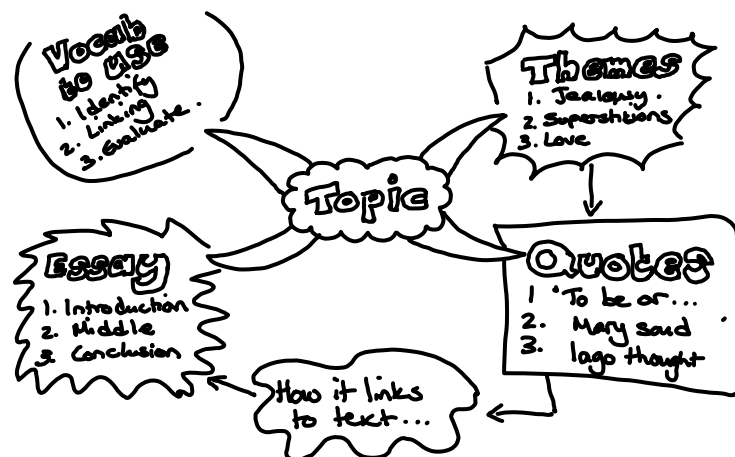
Whilst the Form Tutor is your primary point of contact, you can also discuss concerns with:

Miss A Tanti	Deputy Headteacher – Outcomes
Miss S Lyons	Lead Practitioner for KS4 Outcomes
Mr S Faulkner	Head of Year 11

The Tutorial Programme

All Year 11 students have one PD (Personal Development) lesson per week. In addition there are 35 minutes of Tutor time built into each school day. Tutors provide extensive support to their tutees at this time, discussing matters including:

- Post 16 options
- Careers
- Study skills / time management
- Organisation / meeting deadlines
- Examination preparation / Revision skills
- Aspirations
- Managing stress



Assemblies

Year 11 students will have 1 assembly a week.

- This assembly takes place in the Main Hall and is held by members of the Senior Leadership Team and Heads of Department. These often focus on citizenship as well as exam preparation and next steps.

Assessment and Reporting

Work is continually assessed in all subjects. This may include:

- Written assignments
- Class activities
- Group projects
- Practical assessments
- Tests
- Presentations
- Self-assessment
- Peer-assessment
- Preliminary Exam Papers

Feedback is continuously given by staff. However, on three occasions over the year there will be formal assessment data sent to you:

- 11th November 2024 – Prelim Grades Collected with results day scheduled
- 3rd March 2025 – Prelim Grades Collected with results day scheduled – Full written report will follow

The Year 11 annual Parents Evening will be held on 5th December 2024.



Aspire to Achieve Sessions

We currently provide a very extensive range of support activities throughout the year. We encourage all students to get involved somewhere. A timetable of all 'Aspire to Achieve' support sessions available to students via teams and displayed in form rooms. Many departments are running additional study support after school. All students should aim to try to attend at least three support sessions each week. It is important that students bring queries with them.



The Role of the Student

In order to achieve their full potential, we expect all Year 11 students to follow the code of conduct as signed by all pupils in Year 7.

Holcombe Grammar School students will:

- **work hard, allow others to learn and follow staff instructions**
- **come to school on time, in uniform, with the necessary equipment, planner and homework**
- **be polite, responsible and well-mannered and show consideration and respect for others at all times**
- **maintain a clean, safe and pleasant working environment**

Year 11 students are also guided by a set of aims that develop a good working environment and ethos. It is expected that all students continue to follow these aims, which are:

- **Working together**

Cooperating with each other and helping each other achieve. Reporting any problems that you have seen or heard.

- **Reaching your potential**

Working hard to achieve or potentially exceed your benchmarks and getting the best possible results at the end of the year.

- **Taking pride in your achievements**

Be proud if you have done a good piece of work, achieved a good grade or performed well.

- **Be responsible for your own actions**

If you have done something wrong – accept it, learn from it and move on.



The Role of the Parent

It has been calculated that in the first 16 years of a young person's life, only approximately 11.5% of their time is spent in school. Therefore, we draw to your attention how you, the parents, can support your child over the course of Year 11. We would ask you to:

- Take an active and sustained interest in their work. Look at and help them with homework, ask them what they are learning and discuss marks with them. The best way of doing this is to ask them to teach it to you.
- Try to encourage them to get the work/life balance right. They will need to get all work done on time, but will also need plenty of sleep, exercise, rest and a balanced diet.
- Support us in encouraging them to abide by our code of conduct.
- Carefully study reviews and the full report when issued. Discuss with them and contact us if you have any questions
- Attend the annual parents' evening.
- Check and sign the planner weekly and use the planner as a means of communication.
- Make sure that they come to school on time every day. Research has shown that an attendance rate of 90% (equivalent to missing ½ a day a week) will result in students achieving a whole grade less than would be expected.
Please do not arrange family holidays during term time.
- Try, as much as is possible, to ensure that students are fully equipped for school – particularly stationery and a bag that is large enough to hold an A4 folder.
- Provide time and a suitable distraction-free space for your child to work in at home. Do they have the basic equipment that they need? Try to make homework an integral part of the evening routine.
- Keep up to date with what is going on at school. We publish a blog every other Friday that as parents you can access via the school website.
- Find out examination timetables and help devise realistic revision schedules.
- Direct them to relevant revision sites – though make sure they aren't tempting to waste valuable revision time idly surfing the net.

Year 11 Examinations

- Written exams start on **8th May 2025**.
- Details of the exam boards for each subject can be found in the information booklet and the school website.
- Each year the exam boards designate dates as 'contingency days', which are additional exam dates which will be used in the event of national or significant local disruption to examinations:
 - **11th June 2025 (pm)**
 - **25th June 2025**
- All exam students should therefore ensure that they are available until **25th June 2025** should there be exceptional circumstances that require an exam board to reschedule an exam
- GCSE Results Day: **Thursday 21st August 2025**
- We are not able to email results to students, so if you are unable to attend, you can nominate someone to collect your results on your behalf.

Holidays must not be booked during these times.



Post 16 thoughts

Your child must now be thinking carefully about their post 16 plans. There are a number of options available to them, however it is becoming increasingly difficult to secure full time employment and therefore further study or training is highly recommended.

Holcombe Grammar School Sixth Form

We are privileged to have a large and successful Sixth Form. We only offer A level qualifications. Students have opportunities in a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities and have separate social and study facilities from the rest of the school.

Further information can be found at the:

Sixth Form Open Evening on 21st November 2024 in the Main Hall, 6-9pm.

Modern Apprenticeships

These are extremely difficult to secure and competition is very fierce. Early research is recommended with further information available from the careers officer.

Employment

Securing full time work, with long term prospects is very difficult at 16. Students will be given advice on CVs and application letters during Year 11.

Throughout Year 11 there will be a series of assemblies and programmes which will help students to think about:

- What they want to do after Year 11
- What they need to obtain in Year 11 to achieve this
- Whether they are on course to achieve it

All students will also have an interview with a careers advisor.

10 Keys to success in Key Stage 4

- Find out coursework deadline dates for each subject and stick to them
- Attend after school clubs which provide extra support in many subjects
- Plan revision and coursework – don't leave it until the last minute
- Find a suitable time and place to complete homework
- Talk to staff if problems arise
- Purchase revision guides and use the wealth of helpful information provided on the internet – especially SENECA learning (get specific info from teachers)
- Know your benchmarks and track your progress towards meeting them
- Get a work/life balance – get the work done but also find time to exercise and meet friends
- Eat a balanced diet and get plenty of rest
- Stay calm, work hard and always ask for help

Remember

The successful students are those who are:

- Supported – at home and at school
- Persistent – keep going, even when things get difficult
- Organised – meet deadlines, attend all lessons
- Confident – that they are making progress and succeeding
- Motivated – to succeed and become the best they can be

Upcoming Deadlines

- Geography compulsory fieldwork dates –28th November is to Minster on Sea to study coastal management, 16th January is to Ashford for regeneration.
- GCSE Media Studies NEA final deadline – Monday 16th December
- GCSE Art and Design, Coursework deadline - end of term 2. Both projects must be fully completed. January 2nd - Component 2 paper handed out. Exam dates 30th April and May 1st. All preparation for component 2 must be handed in at the start of the exam 30th April
- PE - Written coursework - end of term 2, External practical evidence - end of term 3
- Languages – Speaking prelim 13th-31st January

For more information

As explained, for general information on the progress of your child **your first point of contact is the Form Tutor.**

For subject specific information, communicate with subject teachers through the planner or, for serious concerns, contact the relevant Head of Department.

Head of English	Mrs G Dacey
Head of Maths	Mrs F Williamson
Head of Science	Miss P Wilson
Head of Art	Ms R Mourino
Head of Business Studies	Miss S Lyons
Head of DT	Mr H Ackers
Head of Geography	Mrs Z Bailey
Head of History	Mr J Wrigley
Head of CS	Mr M Fielding
Head of Media Studies	Mrs E Morris
Head of Modern Languages	Mrs H Ortega-Izquierdo
Head of Music	Mr J Zwanzig
Head of PE	Mr A Nanson
Head of RE	Miss H Cook
Head of Sociology	Mrs K Jhaj

Exam boards

AQA – www.aqa.org.uk

Course Title	Course Code
Art & Design: Fine Art	8202
Art & Design: Photography	8206
Biology	8461
Business Studies	8132
Chemistry	8462
English Language	8700
English Literature	8702
Further Maths	8365
PE	8582
Physics	8463
Science: Combined (Trilogy)	8464
Sociology	8192

Eduqas (WJEC) – www.eduqas.co.uk

Course Title	Course Code
DT: Design & Technology	C600QS
Media Studies	C680QS
Music	C660QS

OCR – www.ocr.org.uk

Course Title	Course Code
Computer Science	J277
Psychology	J203
Religious Studies	J625

Pearson (Edexcel) – www.edexcel.org.uk

Course Title	Course Code
Drama	1DR0
French	1FR0
Geography	1GB0
History	1HI0
Mathematics	1MA1
Spanish	1SP0