



Joseph Swan Academy

9th February 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

It is with great pride that I write this newsletter to all the parents and carers of our fantastic Year 11 students. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the events, activities and successes that our Year 11 students have experienced and contributed to since returning from the Christmas holiday.

On January 8th the Year 11 students returned to the Academy to commence their January Trial examinations. The dedication, commitment and conduct by all students throughout these examinations was exemplary. Students received their Trial Examination results on 29th January at a special celebration event. Over 280 awards, nominated by teachers, were presented to students during this event. Awards were for Outstanding Progress, Resilience, Positive Participation, Ambition, Dedication to After Academy Progress Club (AAPC), Dedication to Home Learning, Outstanding Achievement and many more. Ten students were presented with a Special Recognition Award for outstanding progress, attitude and contribution to the Academy and wider community this year.

The Trial Exam results morning was followed by our Progress Evening. This was very well attended by Parents, Carers and Students. I would like to thank you for taking the time to speak to your son/daughter's teachers as I know the feedback, encouragement and next steps will be vital to the last remaining weeks before the examinations in the Summer.

On the 26th January the Year 11 students attended an extended assembly on the holocaust. This was an exceptionally moving assembly that helped students gain an insight into the heroic work of Sir Nicholas Winton. The assembly was delivered to mark the Holocaust Memorial Day on Saturday 27th January.

On Tuesday 30th January all Year 11 students took part in 'The Big Write' aimed to develop their independent writing skills through investigating topics such as Climate Change, Body Image and Fake News. Every student in Year 11 wrote a letter which was sent to authentic audiences such as the Prime Minister, President Trump and magazine editors. In addition to the Big Write, the English Department held an event to support all Year 11 students with their English Literature text, An Inspector Calls. Our Maths Department has also delivered a fascinating Problem Solving Day to all students.

On the 9th February, twenty-five Year 11 students have been invited to take part in a special Heart to Heart celebration meal. Our top point holders and students who have demonstrated exceptional performance, effort and enthusiasm have been selected to attend this event. On the same day, many Year 11 students participated in the Academy's fundraising event to 'Row the Amazon'. Students will contribute to this challenge throughout the day in order to raise money for Alzheimer's Society.

Head Teacher Miss H. E. Scott, **Chair of Governors** Mr M. Jones

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Excellent attendance is a high priority at Joseph Swan Academy. This half term, Tutor Groups have been competing in a weekly attendance challenge. Students in every Tutor Group work together to reach a weekly target of 95% or more. By doing so they are awarded 50 additional points. This half term 11LF, 11LP, 11KG and 11PH have managed to exceed their weekly targets. The Year 11 Team has also launched the Prom Tag challenge. Students are awarded with a gift tag from their teachers for exceptional effort and attitude. Each gift tag received will result in 20 additional points for the student. Over 90 students have received tags so far; many have received more than one gift tag. The points that students receive are contributing to their Prom Points totals. This year's Prom will be held at The Sage on the 6th July. This will be an exciting event to mark the end of Key Stage 4 and the Summer examinations. If you require any additional information about this event, please contact the Year 11 Team.

On the 26th February, all Parents, Carers and Students are invited to an Exam Preparation Workshop Evening at Joseph Swan Academy between 5.00pm and 7.00pm. The purpose of this event is to provide additional support and guidance in relation to Revision and Study Skills, English, Maths, Science and French Speaking Exams, Understanding the New Grades at GCSE and Exam Anxiety. If you require any further information regarding this evening, please contact the Year Team.

Throughout our next half term, Year 11 students will be invited to attend the After Academy Progress Club (AAPC) to support their progress further. Details of the AAPC lessons are in the packs distributed on Progress Evening but is also available to view on our website. Our Trail Examinations in March will also help to make those vital final preparations for the Summer Examinations that commence on the 15th May 2018.

Your son/daughter undoubtedly faces the most important half term of their academic career and we are here to support and guide them every step of the way. We will continue to hold events to enable your son/daughter to carefully prepare for the 2018 exam season with confidence, determination and ambition. We truly want them to shine.

May I wish everyone a happy and healthy half term holiday and I look forward to seeing the Year 11 students again on the 19th February 2018.

Yours faithfully

Miss K Allan
Year 11 Leader