



The Ridgeway, St. Albans, Hertfordshire. AL4 9NX

Telephone: 01727 799560

Email: admin@sandringham.aat.school

Website: www.sandringham.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Alan Gray, M.Sc., F.R.S.A.

Deputy Headteacher: Caroline Creaby, BA, M.Ed., Ed.D. (MAT)

Senior Deputy Headteacher: Mark Nicholls, BA (Hons)

Acting Deputy Headteacher: Mark Allday, BSc (Hons)

Acting Deputy Headteacher: Kate Mouncey, BSc (Hons), M.Ed.

Letter No: 008/2023

8th September 2023

Dear Families,

Year 11 – Welcome Back

It was great to welcome back your child this week after the Summer break. This letter is firstly an introduction of myself, Andrew Cracknell, Assistant Headteacher and my colleague Elliot Bailey, Performance Director: Year 11. It is Mr Bailey and I who will continue to lead the year group through this important academic year in their education. We both look forward to supporting your child, working closely with you to ensure they meet their full potential and are well prepared for their next steps in post-16 education.

This week when speaking to the students we outlined some key messages for their year ahead. In summary, these messages were:

- Focus on what you can do on a day-to-day basis, rather than overwhelming focus on terminal examinations.
- Set up a daily routine of working hard in school, completing home learning, setting some time aside to review notes of topics that they struggled with that day, and finally leaving time in each day for hobbies and relaxation.
- Take ownership of your own learning. If you are struggling then ask a friend or someone at home to help explain it to you, research it online, or ask your teacher to set aside some time to talk you through it.
- Remember that you are all brilliant young people, and whilst exams are important, we value your other interests and hobbies, as well as your individual characters.

Over the past four years we have seen your child, mature and become more independent. All of these skills are vital when thinking about the journey Year 11 holds.

We are aware that at times, young adults will also require some steering and guidance from their parents/carers. With this in mind, we would like to ask for your support with the following fundamentals as we progress through this final year of your child's GCSE studies.

- **Attendance** – There is strong evidence that good attendance at school improves students' outcomes as well as their confidence. As such, we would ask that wherever possible absences from school are avoided.
- **Punctuality** – Students should arrive on site by 8:20am each morning. Morning activities such as tutor time and assemblies start at 8:30am prompt but can often require students to line up in advance.



- **Uniform** – Please ensure your child has the correct uniform for school (including PE kit) and is wearing it appropriately each day.
- **Equipment** – Students need to be well equipped for their lessons. Valuable time can often be wasted if they are not. A fully stocked pencil case is a necessity. Students should also have a fully charged tablet device with them each day. Due to the increased demand on extended writing, it is a school requirement for Key Stage 4 students to also have a wireless keyboard.

If you need support with the material items listed above (e.g. equipment and uniform), please do not hesitate to contact Gemma Lovett, Pupil Premium Coordinator via admin@sandringham.aat.school

Since returning we have highlighted to students that there are two outcomes which we are striving to achieve by the end of Year 11. The first and most important is that having worked hard, students finish year 11 as well-rounded young people who are happy. Secondly, that students secure the qualifications that they need to progress to whatever they want to do next. In order to fulfil this objective, we will need to work closely with you as parents/carers. The school will need to communicate with you regularly to do this. Therefore, we ask that you regularly monitor the email address you have provided for school communications.

Finally, we would like to invite all families to a Key Stage 4 Information Evening taking place on **Tuesday 26th September at 6:30pm** in the main hall. On the evening, we are fortunate to be joined by Dr. Martijn Van Der Spoel. As an expert speaker and chartered psychologist, he will be giving an in-depth presentation about the best strategies to support your child's learning, alongside the psychological rationale behind them. This presentation will be extremely useful and highly practical and students are also welcome. During the evening, we will also be delivering key information about the year ahead, as well as sharing the ethos that we approach your child's education with, and letting you know about various opportunities open to the students this year, both academic and extra-curricular.

In addition, we will also be going through the pathways open to students after Year 11, including details about entry to sixth form. We do hope that you will be able to join us for this event.

In the meantime, please see the below key dates for the year this far:

Tuesday 26th September – Information Evening with Martijn Van Der Spoel 18:30 main hall

Wednesday 27th September – Extended learning Day, Box End Park

Wednesday 27th – 29th September – Geography Field Trip

Tuesday 31st October – Year 11 Study Skills Day

Thursday 2nd November – BSV Trust Information Evening (Virtual 19:00-20:30)

Monday 20th November – 5th December – Year 11 Trial Exams

Thursday 11th January – Into the Sixth Evening, Sandringham School 18:00-20:30

Monday 15th January – Year 11 PTC 16:00-19:45 Main Hall

Friday 2nd February – Sixth Form

Monday 26th February – 1st March – Year 11 Trial Exams

Wednesday 8th May – Year 11 Last day

We look forward to working with you and your child throughout the academic year ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Cracknell
Assistant Headteacher

Elliot Bailey
Performance Director Year 11