



26 September 2017

Dear parents,

## Information for Year 11

I do hope you had an enjoyable and relaxing summer break and are looking forward to the final school year prior to the GCSE examinations next summer. From experience, I am well aware of the stresses that this year can cause for both pupils and parents and I would urge you to contact us if there are any issues you are unsure of or if you have any concerns whatsoever.

### 9-1 Grades

We hosted a Parent Support Evening last year and went through the major national changes that are affecting pupils who will be sitting GCSEs next summer. The changes are particularly significant to year 11s, with GCSEs now being given a 9-1 grade rather than the old style A\*- G grade. This new number grade was issued to older pupils who sat the Maths and English Language and Literature exams last summer. This summer, all subjects will be issued a 9-1 grade, with the exception of the DT subjects and Child Development which will continue to be graded using the 'old style' A\*-G grading.

### Forthcoming Subject Events

I have attached our latest curriculum plan which shows key dates for controlled assessments and exams for this year. It is also useful in pointing out how much controlled assessments are worth in relation to final exam results. As well as controlled assessments and exams, the following departments have key information they wish to share this half-term:

**English** - Pupils are currently studying the English Language Paper 2 unit as preparation for their GCSE exams. This unit requires pupils to read two unseen non-fiction articles and answer a selection of questions. Pupils may wish to purchase a copy of the following CGP revision guide to support their learning: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/GCSE-English-Language-Revision-Guide/dp/1782943692>

Pupils may also wish to use the Mr Bruff videos on Youtube to support their study of the Language unit. The following link will take you to the Mr Bruff homepage and from there you can select the correct video: <https://www.youtube.com/user/mrbruff/videos>

The English Department will begin a series of after school revision sessions in a few weeks' time. The dates and content of the revision sessions will be publicised to pupils and parents before they begin. Pupils from previous years have found these sessions very helpful, particularly if they are used to support pupils' independent revision.

**ML** – Pupils are busy consolidating their writing and speaking skills. At this point in their GCSE course, it is vital that pupils have a solid grasp of key verbs in the present, perfect and future tenses and teachers have begun to revise these through regular mini-tests and starter activities. Prior to half term, pupils will be asked to complete an open-ended writing task of 50- 100 words about their holidays. As well as this, pupils will complete a speaking task, which will be based on the GCSE photo card element of the oral exam. Regular learning of new vocabulary and grammar points is essential for pupils to stay up to date!

**Geography** – Year 11 pupils should be submitting their River Tillingbourne fieldwork projects (which were to be completed over the summer break) to their teachers for marking. You will shortly be receiving letters about the forthcoming Urban Geography fieldtrip to Portsmouth which will be happening on Monday 9th and Wednesday 11th October.



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**DT** - all DT pupils in year 11 have a Modelling and Testing Deadline of Friday 6th October. There are catch-up sessions available for all year 11 DT pupils each Tuesday and Thursday after school 3.30-4.30pm.

Catch up sessions are held in the following rooms depending on their class teacher:

- Graphic Products (Mrs Jackson) – B8
- Resistant Materials (Mr Hansen) – B9
- Resistant Materials (Mr Kalam) – B13
- Product Design (Miss Moore) – B9

### Post-16 Choices

It is vital that pupils begin to attend open days and complete applications during the current term. The Ashcombe 'Into the 6<sup>th</sup> Open Evening' takes place on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October** at 6.30pm. Mr Blackband, Head of Sixth Form, will send out further details about this event in due course. Other local colleges are all holding events over the next few months. Some of these courses and colleges fill up very early and it is vital that pupils put themselves in a position to make the choice that best suits both their abilities and ambitions. We will be supporting this application process in school.

#### Guildford College

Tue 17 October 2017, 5.30-8pm  
Thu 19 October 2017, 5.30-8pm  
Sat 11 November 2017, 10am-1pm  
Sat 27 January 2018, 10am-1pm  
Thu 8 March 2018, 5.30-8pm

#### Merrist Wood College

Wed 4 October 2017, 5.30-8pm  
Sat 7 October 2017, 10am-1pm  
Sat 18 November 2017, 10am-1pm  
Sat 20 January 2018, 10am-1pm  
Wed 14 March 2018, 5.30-8pm

#### East Surrey College

Sat 7 October 2017, 10:00 - 14:00  
Tue 17 October 2017, 17:00 - 19:30  
Wed 28 February 2018, 17:30 - 19:30  
Sat 16 June 2018, 10:00 - 13:00

#### NESCOT

Wed 27 Sep, 5.30-8  
Wed 15 Nov, 5.30-8  
Wed 7 Feb, 5.30-8  
(Apprenticeships only)  
Wed 14 March, 5.30-8

Jo Carroll, the school's Careers Advisor, is available to be contacted on [carroll.jo@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:carroll.jo@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk) if pupils or parents have any questions or if pupils would like to request a careers interview. We also recommended the following websites to assist with post-16 choices:

[www.futurefinder.yourlife.org.uk/](http://www.futurefinder.yourlife.org.uk/) - allows pupils to match their preferences to jobs and career searches

[www.I-Could/Buzz/](http://www.I-Could/Buzz/) - for Buzz test personality profiling and career examples

[www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk](http://www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk) - for Careers Advice, Career Tools, Job Profiles, Course Searches, Labour Market Information

[www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk) - for current apprenticeship vacancies

[www.vark-learn.com](http://www.vark-learn.com) - a guide to pupils learning preferences

<http://russellgroup.ac.uk/> - information on how to choose A-Levels from the Russell Group Admission Tutors

[www.plotr.co.uk](http://www.plotr.co.uk) - Employer Profiles, Opportunity Finder and Games

[www.universityfinder.org.uk/ucas-points-calculator.html](http://www.universityfinder.org.uk/ucas-points-calculator.html) - Qualification points calculator

[www.unistats.direct.gov.uk](http://www.unistats.direct.gov.uk) - the official website for comparing UK higher education course data

[www.notgoingtouni.co.uk](http://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk) - search and apply for apprenticeships, gap years, distance learning & jobs

[www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk](http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk) - university ranking for your chosen degree subject

[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) - helping you into university and college in the UK

[www.whatuni.com](http://www.whatuni.com) - degree course rankings, university reviews, degree course details, university profiles

[www.barclayslifefskills.com](http://www.barclayslifefskills.com) - helps you get the skills and experiences you need to enter the world of work

<http://growingambitions.tes.co.uk/> - career routes, careers by topic, A-Z of job profiles

<http://www.gothinkbig.co.uk/> - how to set up your own career

[www.pupilladder.co.uk](http://www.pupilladder.co.uk) - for Work Placements, Graduate Schemes & Internship opportunities

[www.yearoutgroup.org](http://www.yearoutgroup.org) - for Gap Year information on volunteering; travel; work placements; expeditions etc.

<http://university.which.co.uk/a-level-explorer> - what university subjects to study with A level subjects?

<http://www.workandtraining.org/careerwebsites.htm> - gives an alphabetical list of different career related websites

<https://www.yourpassionyourpotential.rbs.com> - find out about finance and entrepreneurship, internships and apprenticeship opportunities available in the UK & overseas.

<http://www.allaboutschooleavers.co.uk/> - for current school leaver vacancies

### **Mock Exams**

Year 11 will embark on Study Leave in early December. I will write to you about this nearer the time. To gain Study Leave, pupils must have completed all outstanding work, achieve 95% attendance, be late no more than 10% of the time to registrations and show a willingness to follow school rules, including working-off detentions when issued and following school uniform procedure. It is vital that pupils aim to maintain a good level of attendance during this critical year. Most colleges are now asking for attendance figures in their selection criteria, along with a character reference. As with last year's Year 11 group, we are using attendance as criteria for both Study Leave and the Leavers' Ball. Obviously, if personal circumstances prevent attendance, this will be taken into consideration providing we are kept fully informed.

### **Leavers' Ball**

I can confirm that this year's Leavers Ball will once again take place at Denbies. This will be the third year we have used this fantastic local venue. Feedback from previous year groups and parents has been very good. This year's event will take place on **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May**.

### **Leavers' Events**

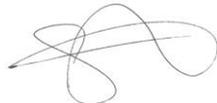
I would like to highlight these traditional events early as, from previous experience, year 11 can be an expensive and stressful year for parents. As with previous years, pupils will have the opportunity to purchase a Leavers' Book, a Leavers' Hoodie, along with their ticket to the Leavers' Ball; however, none of these are compulsory and many pupils choose which ones they would like to purchase. We will provide further information later in the year; however, if you would like to start a 'saving scheme' please contact either me or Mr Ravenhill.

### **Uniform**

I would like to thank parents for their support with ensuring school uniform is worn correctly. PTA order forms are available at the Pupil Services Desk. Please do contact me if there are any issues.

If you require any further information about anything mentioned in the letter, or about Year 11 more generally, please contact me by email: [ketley.stuart@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:ketley.stuart@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk) or Mr Ravenhill on [ravenhill.ben@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:ravenhill.ben@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk)

Yours sincerely,



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Head of Upper School