

15th May 2024

**URGENT FAO YEAR 11 PARENTS**

Dear Parents and Carers,

First of all I would like to pass on how impressed I have been with how Year 11 have conducted themselves during the first few exams. They have behaved impeccably.

However, we need your support in the final weeks of Year 11. At present exams have only been running for 4 days. The exam season is a lengthy one and there are many more exams to take place.

Our experience over many years has been that pupils are more successful in exams, and achieve better grades, if they remain in school in lessons whenever they are not in an exam. Teaching staff have expertise in last minute preparation and even after paper 1 has taken place, will produce more advice for subsequent exams. This is backed up by national evidence.

Therefore we do not have study leave at Alder Grange until after the bulk of the main exams are complete. This is after **7th June**. Only two more school weeks. This pattern is followed at all other local secondary schools. Legally, schools are required to keep Year 11 pupils in school until the end of June, so we are lenient on this.

I am aware of a number of pupils arranging appointments and trying to get sent home ill following exams this week. When genuine medical issues arrive we are supportive and there are some exceptional circumstances in place for a very small number of pupils. For the remainder **we will not authorise any absence or allow pupils to leave school after exams.**

I would like to ask for your support in encouraging your child to make the most of every lesson and teacher expertise in order to maximise their chances of success. We all value the relationship we have built with you as parents over the last 5 years and hope you trust us to do the very best for your child as the exams continue.

Yours sincerely



Jo Griffiths, Headteacher