

23rd January 2009

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 11 Students

You will already have received information from Mrs Baker outlining the changes to the Kick Start provision for our Year 11 students.

The changes are being introduced following feedback from students and parents who have requested additional time for revision sessions. Students are expected to attend all of the sessions outlined, that is, Monday, Thursday and Friday mornings from 8.30 am to 9.15 am. The Monday and Friday sessions will focus on Maths and English with the Thursday allocated for Tutorial time. Students will also be required to attend one-to-one mentoring with their Personal Tutor at least once a half term, on a Monday between 3.05 pm and 3.50 pm. There is no requirement to attend any other Kick Start session unless the student wishes to continue with the activity. As detailed in the previous letter, **these changes become effective from Monday 26th January 2009.**

With reference to my earlier letter explaining the withdrawal of Study Leave, this is a requirement from the DCSF (Department for Children, Schools and Families); please see the extract below from the published guidance:

'Approved Educational Activity must be supervised by someone approved by the school. It must also take place during the session for which the mark is recorded. As study leave is unsupervised and schools cannot assume that it took place during the school session it does not meet these regulatory requirements.'

Many schools are electing to seek alternatives to study leave as there is evidence that a high proportion of students do not have the skills, or are not inclined, to make the best use of large amounts of unsupervised and unstructured revision time.'

(Absence and Attendance Code, Guidance for Schools and Local Authorities: DCSF January, 2009)

The Academy will therefore be looking at the best way to support the students during the period of external examinations. The existing timetable will be restructured to take account of the need for specialist revision sessions and the fact that students are not permitted to leave school until the last Friday in June 2009.

I trust that we can rely on your support to ensure that all sessions are attended as requested. If you require any further clarification please contact your child's Company Strategic Director.

Yours sincerely

Caroline Badyal
Principal/Chief Executive