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Dear Parents or Carers

No Student Left Behind Programme

Over the last 2 years, all young people have faced educational disruption, and nothing is more important for schools than ensuring that all students' life chances are at least as good as they would have been had they not had to grow up during a global pandemic. The government is providing various funding for "catch up" which we will put to good use, focussing on students in all year groups who most need additional support, but we recognise that more needs to be done to ensure all students taking exams next summer are ready to do as well as they possibly can. I am writing to you today to outline our plans to ensure that no student is left behind.

The closer a student is to external exams, the greater the urgency to ensure they are as prepared as they possibly can be for those exams. The exam regulator, Ofqual, recently announced some changes to arrangements for next summer to try to make exams fairer for students. While those plans will go some way towards mitigating potential unfairness in the award of grades, they do not address the scale of the challenge we face and do not address the fact that some students have been more badly affected than others, through sheer bad luck, and have had to self-isolate multiple times and have missed much more face-to-face teaching than others.

All our schools are implementing plans for effective use of catch-up funding to help those who need it in any year group. But external funding for "catch up" has fallen significantly from last year, so our trust board has recently agreed to invest some significant additional funding into our schools to enable us to set up our **No Student Left Behind Programme**.

This programme, which will begin in January and run up to the exams, will give an entitlement of additional support for every student in Years 11 and 13, as well as targeted further support for those who most need it, including the students who have missed most days through self-isolation since the start of Year 10 or Year 12, and any other students identified as having fallen further behind through our own internal ongoing assessment. In total, this additional investment will work out at around £300 per student in Year 11 and Year 13.

The support offered through our **No Student Left Behind Programme**, is based on the best evidence from The Education Endowment Foundation, of what is most likely to have strong impact. Each of the four secondary schools in our trust will offer the same entitlement to every student.

The basic entitlement that every Year 11 and Year 13 student will receive is as follows:



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- A full programme of after school “period 6” consolidation lessons
- Free bus transport home for any student who needs it after all period 6 sessions
- A £50 “voucher” to purchase revision materials from a menu of approved resources
- Series of ‘Master Classes’ delivered by subject experts
- Quiet space to work on a lunchtime

In addition to this, where a student has been identified as requiring further support, for example where they have missed a particularly high number of days of face-to-face teaching, there will be an extra package of support that will include some of:

- Intensive consolidation revision sessions outside of school hours
- Additional pack of core revision guides
- MIND workshops on dealing with stress and managing workload
- Small group support from subject specialist sixth form or university students
- Online or app-based programme for core subjects

We continue to believe that for most students, in most year groups, it is being back in school with normal routines and normal schoolwork that will get them where they need to be. However, Year 11 (and Year 13) students are too close to external exams and have faced too much disruption for us not to put a really significant package of support in place for them. We are conscious that it remains vitally important that we help all our young people maintain balance in their lives, that we support them and are mindful of their wellbeing. We do not want them to become overwhelmed with workload, but we do think some extra time with their teachers, some extra resources and the targeted support in this new programme should really help them as they prepare for next summer’s exams.

We will write to you again soon with more details.

Kind regards

Jonny Uttley
CEO

Scott Ratheram
Executive Principal