



**Sponne School**  
A Music & Science Academy

# Dream Believe Achieve

September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

It was a pleasure to welcome Year 11 back to school last week following the summer holidays. It was a great privilege at the end of last term to visit so many students at their work experience placements and the amount of positive feedback about our students was truly overwhelming. So many of the students really took the opportunity to learn about the workplace and fully engage in the activities that presented themselves. There were a number of students who were even offered summer placements as a result of their excellent conduct.

I also want to congratulate the Year 11s on their English Literature results. 74% of students achieved a Grade 4 or higher which is a fantastic achievement and sets an excellent foundation for success in the coming GCSEs. I know that all students will have benefitted from the experience of the exams in May 2024 and can now see what needs to be done in order to ensure success in the coming academic year.

There are 30 weeks until the May 2025 half term. Every day now counts for Year 11 and every day is an opportunity for students to do something that they will thank themselves for come August 21st 2025. As Mr Forbes said in his first assembly to Year 11 last week - your child will know in their heart what is in that envelope before they open it. All students receive the grades they deserve in their GCSEs. It is vital that focus turns to effective preparation and starting to build a revision timetable into their weekly routine - if that can be started now then there is no need for panic or anxiety when we reach April and May and in school revision begins in earnest.

Very quickly we will be advising students about exam preparation sessions that students can attend during lunchtimes/after school with their teachers and we will share this information with you - I wholeheartedly encourage students to make use of these to the fullest extent.

As parents and guardians, your role in this is also crucial. Please encourage your young person to make use of in school revision sessions; ensure your young person has a dedicated space at home where they can work; help them make a revision timetable for the week; make sure your young person gets appropriate rest and breaks; ensure that they are maintaining healthy sleep routines. This, combined with focus in lessons and hard work will all contribute to a positive progress across the year and satisfaction in August. If there is any additional support you feel your young person needs, please do hesitate to contact their form tutor.

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Tutors can be contacted using the following emails:

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11HW Mr H Woods - [hwoods@sponne.org.uk](mailto:hwoods@sponne.org.uk)  
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I am pleased to introduce Mr Paull as the new Assistant Progress Learning Leader for Year 11. Together we will work to ensure that your students are appropriately supported throughout the year. Mr Paull teaches many of the Year 11 students as a Geography teacher and also has been involved with the Duke of Edinburgh scheme and rugby coaching at school.

Attendance remains an important focus for us in this school year - there is very clear evidence of the link between attendance and progress/attainment. We will do our absolute best to support your child's progress but we can only do that if they are in school - please encourage resilience in your child and minimise incidents of absence as far as possible. As in previous years, I will meet with the attendance officer on a termly basis to review attendance and make contact with parents and guardians where there are concerns.

We continue to uphold the school's high standards and kindly remind you of the importance of ensuring your child follows the uniform policy. Please make sure that students wear their blazers to school each day, as this is a key part of our uniform. Additionally, shirts should be neatly tucked in at all times to maintain a smart appearance. Long acrylic nails are not permitted as they pose a health and safety risk. Your support in reinforcing these expectations helps foster a sense of pride and discipline within the school community. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Some key dates for your diary:

19th September 2024: School closes early (2:05pm) for the Year 6 New Intake evening  
18th November - 29th November 2024: Mock exams  
12th December: Year 11 Progress Evening  
3rd March - 14th March: Mock exams

I look forward to an exciting and successful year ahead!

Yours faithfully

Pete DeBoo  
Progress Learning Leader for Year 11

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