



# YEAR 11 BULLETIN

Friday 26th September 2025



Dear families,

Welcome back to our fortnightly Year 11 bulletin, designed to provide essential information with you about upcoming events, exams and guidance to support your child through their final, important year at secondary school. Through this bulletin, we will also

celebrate the achievements of our brilliant Year 11 students.

We are delighted to report that Year 11 have made an excellent start to their final academic year. The term began with a year group assembly where we shared the inspirational successes of last year's cohort. We also outlined what the final months at secondary school will look like and the 'Grade 9 actions' students should now be following daily. Additionally, we discussed post-16 application references which will include information on attendance, behaviour and motivation, PPE grades and students' end-of-term reports.

We are proud that so many of our students have been taking these reminders seriously across the first few weeks: attending Breakfast Revision, Working Lunch and Champion's Hour, earning character points and receiving shout outs from their teachers for their exceptional work.

A reminder that our Silent Study Centre (the SSC) is open exclusively for Year 11 students during lunchtimes for 'Working Lunch' and after school for 'Champion's Hour' each day. There are plenty of revision resources in there, along with access to computers. Please encourage your child to continue to take advantage of this supervised, silent study space.

Thank you for your continued support. As always, please feel free to contact us with any achievements, concerns, or questions.

**Miss S Coupland, Assistant Headteacher – Student Outcomes**  
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**Miss J Walsh, Head of Year 11** (jwalsh@orchardparkhigh.net)

## Post-16 applications

This week, Year 11 students had an assembly on applying to post-16 destinations. They should now be exploring options and starting applications. One-to-one careers appointments are also underway to support them.

Most sixth forms and colleges have published their open evening dates, which you can view in our compiled list for local destinations. We encourage families to attend these events together, as they are an excellent opportunity to explore options.

Many sixth forms and colleges close applications before November, so it is vital that students are starting to apply now. If your child is applying to an independent (private) school, the applications for these schools usually close even earlier.

Please support your child at home with applications and encourage them to be ambitious. Students can apply to as many post-16 destinations as they wish, so applying to a range is a fantastic idea to keep their options open.

## Year 11 line-up shout outs!

Every day at lunch time line-up, we celebrate the Year 11 students who have been nominated by their subject teachers for brilliantly demonstrating one of our school values: excellence, integrity, collaboration, drive.

Students receive a chocolate bar (and a round of applause from the year group!).

Year 11s who have received individual nominations this week:

- **Safi** (Sociology) – nominated by Mr Olson for Collaboration: great peer review of someone else's homework. You demonstrated brilliant knowledge.
- **Eva-Louise** (History) – nominated by Mr Evans for Excellence: for consistently giving 100% in history lessons, great turn and talk discussions and excellent written work as a result.
- **Christos** (Biology) – nominated by Miss Friday for Drive: Christos has created fantastic biology revision resources of the key diagrams from units 1 to 5.
- **Heather, Molly and Rhys** (Maths) – nominated by Ms Devane for Drive: well done for demonstrating an intuitive understanding of how to work backwards to find missing values in triple bracket expressions.
- **Alex McL, Riley, Louie, Mia, Regan L, Aurio** (Maths) – nominated by Mr Baksh for Drive: excellent work on Sparx Revision.
- **Miles** (Music) – nominated by Mr Sahl-Taylor for Excellence: great drumming for the solo recording.



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## Attendance reminder

**Excellent attendance is key to achieving strong exam results.**

Missing lessons means missing essential content that will be assessed in final summer exams. Each day of absence results in lost learning time, making it harder to stay on track and progress effectively.

We kindly ask all families to ensure their child attends school on time, every day. At this critical stage of their final year of secondary school, every minute of every lesson really matters.

### ATTENDANCE MATTERS

DAYS OFF  
COST GOOD  
GRADES

Research suggests that each **17 days missed from school** your GCSE results will go down **ONE GRADE!**

While a 95% score might seem excellent on a test, it's different when it comes to attendance. 95% attendance means missing nearly 10 days of school in a year - equivalent to 60 lessons lost for Year 11 students. Every year, we see that attendance has a significant impact on students' learning and progress.

**Please also note that we are required to submit your child's attendance data as part of their post-16 applications. Many sixth forms, colleges and apprenticeships require a minimum attendance of 95%.**

Thank you for your continued support.

## Local Sixth Forms and Colleges (A-Z)

Below is a list of sixth forms and colleges (A-Z) local to Orchard Park High School. Many of our former students have continued their studies at these post-16 destinations.

This document will be updated regularly as new application details, including deadlines, are released.

Please note: application deadlines for independent (private) schools close significantly earlier than those for other institutions. These schools are highlighted in purple.

- Click [here](#) to view the list of local sixth forms and colleges, ordered by open evening dates.
- Click [here](#) to download our Sixth Form and College Research and Visit Checklist.
- Click [here](#) to read our answers to frequently asked questions about open evenings and applying to sixth form or college.

### Daily revision opportunities

- **Breakfast revision** led by Miss Coupland. 8.00am to 8.25am in the canteen every morning. Short revision worksheets provided, and free toast is available.
- **Working lunch** – In the SSC every day from 1.00pm to 1.30pm. This is a supervised, silent study session for Year 11 to complete revision and homework at lunchtime.
- **Champions' Hour** – In the SSC every day from 3.40pm to 4.40pm. This is another supervised, silent study session for Year 11 to complete revision and homework after school.