t. 01924 282740
e. info@horburyacademy.com
w. horburyacademy.com
Wakefield Road, Horbury, West Yorkshire, WF4 5HE

Executive Principal: Mrs N Walker

18 September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

As we begin the new academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome your child to Year 11, a pivotal and exciting stage in their education. This is an incredibly important year as pupils work towards achieving their GCSE qualifications and preparing for their next steps beyond secondary school.

Before looking ahead, I would like to congratulate all our Year 11 pupils on the excellent start they made during the Year 11 roll-up in June 2026. They settled quickly into the expectations of the year group and demonstrated a mature and positive attitude throughout. We were particularly impressed with how well pupils conducted themselves during their Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs) and Period 7 intervention sessions. Their commitment, resilience and professionalism provided an excellent foundation for the year ahead. This positive start has continued since returning in September, with pupils demonstrating real purpose, focus and determination in their approach to Year 11. Their attitude towards learning and willingness to engage with the opportunities available to them have been extremely encouraging and have set the tone for a successful year ahead.

Attendance will also play a vital role in pupils' success this year. Research conducted by the Department for Education demonstrates a clear link between attendance and academic attainment. Pupils in Year 11 with attendance above 95% were almost twice as likely to achieve a Grade 5 or above in English and Mathematics compared to those with attendance between 90% and 95%. The research also found that missing just 10 days of school during Year 11 can reduce the likelihood of achieving these outcomes by around 50%. Every lesson matters, particularly in an examination year, and we ask for your support in ensuring that pupils attend school every day, arrive on time, and avoid unnecessary absences wherever possible. Together, we can ensure that every pupil has the best possible opportunity to achieve their full potential.

This year, there has been a change to the start of the school day, with school now beginning at 8:25am. It is therefore essential that pupils arrive before this time so that they can fully utilise the additional Period 1 time available each morning. This dedicated time is being used to provide subject-specific intervention and support, tailored to meet the individual needs of each pupil and help maximise their GCSE outcomes. A prompt start to the day is crucial, and we ask for your support in ensuring that pupils arrive punctually each morning. Equally, pupils are expected to arrive on time to all lessons throughout the day, including Period 7 intervention sessions, so that they gain the full benefit of every learning opportunity available to them during this important year.

The purpose of this letter is to outline the key assessment dates and support events that will help pupils maximise their success throughout Year 11.

How to Help Your Child Succeed Evening
We are pleased to invite parents and carers to our first How to Help Your Child Succeed Evening on **Tuesday 6 October 2026**. This event is designed to provide practical guidance and support ahead of the next round of PPEs, enabling families to effectively support learning and revision at home.

Autumn PPEs
The next round of PPEs will begin on **Monday 19 October 2026** and conclude on **Friday 13 November 2026.**

These examinations provide an important opportunity for pupils to assess their progress, identify strengths and areas for development, and experience examination conditions before the final GCSEs.

Pupils will receive their PPE results during Parents' Evening on **Monday 30 November 2026**. Following the analysis of these results, intervention programmes will be reviewed and adjusted to ensure that support is targeted appropriately and reflects individual pupil needs.

Spring PPEs
The final round of PPEs will take place from **Monday 1 February 2027** until **Friday 26 February 2027.**
Results from these examinations will be shared during Parents' Evening on **Monday 15 March 2027**. As with the previous PPE cycle, intervention programmes will be adapted to provide pupils with the most effective support in the lead-up to their GCSE examinations.

Pizza and Preparation Evening
A second How to Help Your Child Succeed Evening will take place on **Wednesday 24 March 2027**. This event will focus specifically on revision strategies and techniques that pupils can use to prepare effectively for their GCSE examinations.

Additional Support Opportunities
To further support pupils during this crucial period, we will be offering a wide range of intervention and revision opportunities, including:

- Easter College, with both morning and afternoon sessions available.
- May Half-Term College, again offering both morning and afternoon sessions.
- Saturday morning revision sessions following the Easter break and throughout the run-up to the GCSE examinations.
- Period 0 and additional Period 7 lessons.

We strongly encourage pupils to take advantage of these opportunities, as they have consistently proven to have a significant impact on outcomes.

GCSE Examinations
Following the Easter break, GCSE examinations will begin for several subjects, including, Art, Photography, Hospitality, Hair and Beauty, French, Spanish

The formal GCSE examination series is currently expected to begin from approximately Monday 10 May 2027, with a detailed examination timetable being shared with pupils as soon as it is confirmed.

Year 11 is undoubtedly a demanding year, but it is also one of tremendous opportunity. By working together, maintaining high levels of attendance, engaging fully with intervention and revision opportunities, and providing consistent support both in school and at home, we are confident that every pupil can achieve their full potential.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to working closely with you throughout the year and celebrating the successes of the Class of 2027.

Yours faithfully,

Mr R Cutten
Assistant Principal