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SADDLEWORTH SCHOOL

SLE/CTN

27th August 2026

Dear Parents and Carers of all Year 11 students,

Firstly, I hope your children have had a great summer break before they commence their final year at Saddleworth.

I write this letter before the new academic year starts to update you on important information as early as I can. I believe that this academic year is *arguably* one of the most important years of your child's education as your child will be sitting their GCSE exams in a few months' time. These exams are the gateway to post 16 opportunities which will largely determine what your child can and can't do in their futures. The following are some key points for your perusal. These key messages will be reiterated as and when appropriate, for example in assemblies or in future correspondence.

'The Class of 2027'

Firstly, let me start with positive news. This Yr11 cohort, *'the class of 2027'* has a real chance to achieve great GCSE exams, both individually and collectively. Your child will be sitting their GCSE Mock exams in a few months' time in November and their GCSEs in May/June. In essence, if they work hard and adopt a real positive attitude to their learning, then they have the ability to surpass their potential next summer. As parents, I ask that you support them [and us] in this endeavour to achieve great outcomes.

GCSE outcomes August 2026

We were delighted to see the hard work and determination that the class of 2026 put into their final year which saw them achieve some well-deserved results in August. The school's examination results have improved on previous years with *headline measures exceeding national averages.* The class of 2026 should be proud of their achievements, and we wish them well in their next steps in education, employment or training. They demonstrated that the ingredients for exam success continue to be hard work, a positive attitude to learning in lessons, regular revision throughout the year and excellent attendance to school and study support sessions.

Attendance [and punctuality]

It is vital that your child makes every effort to attend school. There is no doubt that there is a strong correlation between attendance and GCSE attainment. 100% attendance must be the aim of every child. It is a myth that your child will 'catch-up' if they miss school. I ask that parents do everything possible to ensure that their child attends school regularly. To illustrate the importance of good attendance I will share some statistics from the 2026 GCSE results that show, beyond any reasonable doubt, the importance of attendance. 92% of the students who had an attendance of 95% or higher, achieved grade 4s or above in both English and Maths whereas only 45% of students with an attendance below 90% achieved grades 4 or above in English and Maths. This is a massive difference.

Additionally, the expectation is that your child attends school on time, the first bell goes at 8.25am. Poor time keeping is potentially a sign of low expectations towards their studies. Good attendance

and punctuality is vital to achieving potential and are a pre-requisite for being invited to the Prom. Students will be warned if this is the case so that they will be given every chance to improve.

Working Hard from the Outset

There is **no substitute** for hard work. Achieving great grades will be determined by how hard your child works. GCSEs are not easy and there is a lot of content that needs to be covered. Your child should be working at home for between 2-3 hours each night. It is also important that they start working hard straight away to avoid unnecessary and avoidable stress. Every year, I see students getting stressed because they didn't listen to this single piece of advice. Again, I ask parents to support the school in this endeavour. The outcome will be joy next August for your child.

Revision

All students must embrace revision. This will prepare them for ongoing assessments in different subjects and their Mocks in December. Although all students may revise differently, I include some tips below.

- ✓ Have a quiet place to study with no distractions such as their phone
- ✓ Have a structured revision timetable including dedicated revision time at weekends
- ✓ Do not make copious notes: use key words, concepts and spider diagrams
- ✓ Test themselves regularly to ensure that they have remembered the subject content
- ✓ Complete past exam questions and papers, paying close attention to the mark scheme and how marks are awarded. This should build their confidence over time.

It is important that you encourage your child to revise steadily over this academic year. It really does make the difference to their GCSE outcomes. As always, please encourage your child to ask their teacher for advice, they are there to help and support!

Planned intervention in School

There is a planned programme of intervention for our students. This involves the following:

- *Form time.* In form time there is support for exam preparation, opportunities for mentoring and there are specific forms of targeted intervention called *Key To Success* Groups. It is vital that your child is punctual to school to enable them to take advantage of this group.
- *Lunch time and after school study support*. Again, these are targeted at groups of students to maximise students' progress. This will be reviewed when necessary.

Support

As a parent whose two children have been through their GCSE exams, I recognise that this academic year can be potentially stressful. We have a graduated approach to supporting our children. Their form tutor is the first point of call if there is an issue. If you have queries regarding a specific subject, please contact the subject teacher. Mrs Hargreaves, Head of Year Y 11, is available to offer support. If you need to speak to her, please contact school and she will be more than willing to help. The Yr11 team also includes Mrs Smith who is the pastoral support assistant for Yr11 and Miss Evans, Senior leader overseeing Yr11 students. Additionally, at the right time, staff will also be **mentoring** targeted students.

Appointments for Yr11 parents

I believe that proactive communication is fundamental in solving any potential issues in this very important year. Therefore, I have set aside a day, **Friday 11th September**, to meet any parent that would like to speak to me. The times will be on a first come, first served basis and will begin from

6.30am until 3pm. If you want to book an appointment, please contact Mrs Reece on headspa@saddleworthschool.org to arrange an appointment. I look forward to meeting you in person.

Prefects

The Head Boy/Girl and their deputies have already been appointed. Thank you to all the students who applied to become prefects. We received a large number of applications, which reflects the enthusiasm and commitment of our Year 11 students. The successful applicants will be informed during the first week back in September.

Key Dates

- *Parental Information Evening*. This will take place on ***Wednesday 16th September at 6pm***. (This evening is for parents only due to space). I ask that parents make every effort to attend this as I will be imparting important information, and it will be an excellent opportunity to ask questions and/or clarify key issues.

- *Parents' Evening.* This will take place on ***Thursday 7th January from 4-7pm.*** This is a great opportunity to meet your child's subject teachers after their Mock exams and before extra Mock exams in Maths, English and Science on ***Thursday 11th and Friday 12th February***. There will also be another parents' evening later in the academic year which will involve meeting SLT on week beginning ***Monday 15th March***.

- *Mock exams*. These will take place over a 2-week period, starting ***Monday 9th November.*** These will be linear and cover all the content your child has been learning since Yr10. It is vital that they are revising in preparation for these. Yr11 reports will be emailed on ***Wednesday 6th January.***

- *GCSE exams.* The main exams start in May but there will be some practical elements of the exam that take place throughout the year. The expectation is that there will be no study leave for the majority of the exam period.

- *Meeting selected students.* Over the next few weeks, members of the Senior Leadership team will meet parents of students who are causing concern. This proactive approach will ensure that there is a clear expectation of what is expected over the forthcoming months.

End of year Prom 22nd June 2027

This is a great evening that celebrates five years at Saddleworth and is an evening that Yr11 students look forward to. However, both students and parents must understand that the Prom is by **invitation** only and is not an **entitlement**. To get an invite to the Prom is simple! Students must have positive attitudes to learning, engagement with the study support programme, good attendance and punctuality. Furthermore, any student who has been **suspended twice during year 11** will have their invitation withdrawn. As parents, I ask that you are clear about this message. This message will be conveyed regularly throughout the year in Yr11 assemblies.

A Personal Message from Mrs Hargreaves, Head of Year 11

This is undoubtedly one of the most important and exciting years of your child's school journey. Together, we want to support your child as they work hard towards their GCSEs and prepare for the next stage of their lives. At the end of Yr10, many students received excellent feedback from their assessments, and it is important your child builds on this success in Yr11. This year will inevitably

bring triumphs, tears and struggles, but if your child remains positive, determined and focused, I am confident that they will achieve the results they deserve.

Recently, we celebrated our students' GCSE results day. Although it was a largely positive occasion, there were understandably some students who were disappointed. In less than a year, it will be your child collecting their results. Therefore, hard work needs to begin from the start of September, including making the most of the support available in school and attending compulsory after-school intervention sessions. These sessions are carefully tailored to your child's individual needs, and attendance will be monitored. I would encourage you to support your child in prioritising these sessions and making the most of every opportunity to improve.

I know Yr11 can be challenging and stressful. However, your child should never be afraid to ask for help or support. Their teachers, form tutors and Year Team are here to support, encourage and help them overcome any difficulties they may face.

Finally, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you, as parents and carers, for the important role you play. Your encouragement, support and positive conversations at home can make a real difference to your child's confidence, motivation and resilience. I look forward to working with you to make this final year is as productive, successful and memorable as possible. Let us embrace the year together, celebrate the successes along the way and ensure that, when Results Day arrives next year, your child can look back knowing that they gave their very best.

Finally

My staff and I will be working hard and are focused on ensuring that your child achieves their potential next summer. All staff at Saddleworth want your child to succeed and achieve their potential. All of them deserve the best start in life and over the next few months we will do everything we can to ensure that this happens. I ask that parents support our rules, our high expectations and that you encourage and support your child to study at home. It will be worth it next August!

On behalf of all the Saddleworth staff, GOOD LUCK to the class of 2027!

Yours sincerely

Mr Logue
Headteacher