

SSH/JRO

21st January 2019

Dear Parent

Year 11

As the Year 11s have now completed their first term of their final year at school, it is now more important than ever that their effort, attendance and behaviour are positively influencing their attainment.

From the most recent data collection, only 13 students have *both* 100% attendance and outstanding effort across the board. Unfortunately, there are currently 59 students who have an attendance of below 95% and, consequently, are disadvantaging themselves in the run-up to their exams. Furthermore, effort has decreased throughout the year group from an average of 3.75 to 3.41. Year 11 attendance is currently 93.1% which is significantly below the whole school figure of 94.6% and the national average for secondary schools.

This is disappointing, and should it continue, will result in these students not reaching their full potential and leaving RCS without the grades they are capable of.

We have many incentives that we run during Y11, with the main ones being The Prom and the leavers' hoodies. Students were informed at the beginning of the year that attendance to the Prom is a privilege, not a right. They have to earn their place through doing what we expect of all Y11 students - *good attendance, punctuality and high effort* in lessons.

It is not our aim to exclude anyone from attending the prom and we would love all 169 members of the year group to attend. However, our main priority is that students leave Rawmarsh with the best grades possible. Many students are not on track to achieve this, and we will need to see a large shift in levels of attendance, punctuality and high effort across lessons by certain students. Attendance, effort and attainment are fundamentally linked. A student who attends school and tries their best is far more likely to achieve, relative to their ability, over a student who is persistently absent.

Our approach to year 11 attendance:

- All students who have an attendance of 95% or above from 7th January will be eligible to attend the prom
- All students with an attendance of 95% or above will be able to order their Year 11 Leavers Hoody now. (see overleaf)
- All students with 100% attendance will be eligible for a number of rewards including discounted prom tickets

The decision has been made to allow those students who are already showing the high standards mentioned to order their leavers' hoodies. As students receive these, they will be allowed to wear them around school immediately. Again we would like all students to have the opportunity to purchase a hoody, and we will set incentives around attendance and effort over 6 week blocks. If students meet the criteria they will be able to order and wear their hoody.

Y11 exams are fast approaching. Effort in lessons and attendance to lessons both have a massive effect on student outcomes. These are also two of the easiest things students can change; even small improvements in the right direction will impact positively on attainment.

For many students within the year group this will not be a challenge or a concern, because they come to school everyday, on time, work hard and regularly attend revision sessions.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Shaw
Associate Assistant Headteacher

Miss C Merchant
Head of Year 11