



23rd October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Y11 Update Letter

As we approach the October half-term break, we would like to thank you for your ongoing support this term, particularly for the excellent attendance at our recent Parent Information Evening. We hope you found the information useful. The key to supporting our young people through this period is maintaining open and honest communication between home and school. We all share the same goal: to ensure every student is supported to achieve their very best, both academically and personally.

Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs)

A reminder that Year 11 PPEs will begin on **Monday 10th November**, in the second week after half term. An updated timetable has been shared with students and is available on the Year 11 section of the school website [here](#). Students have also received personalised timetables via email, which include room locations, seat numbers, and other important details.

Over the half-term break, please ensure your child **restocks their pencil case** with at least two black biros, a sharpened pencil, rubber, ruler, maths set, and scientific calculator. A reminder that **full school uniform**, including a blazer, is required to enter the exam room, your support with this each morning is greatly appreciated to help avoid delays.

The upcoming PPEs are an important milestone in your child's learning journey and a fantastic opportunity for them to demonstrate how much progress they've already made. While they can sometimes feel daunting, we encourage students to see these PPEs as a valuable stepping stone rather than something to fear. They provide a chance to experience the structure, timing and expectations of formal exams in a supportive, lower-stakes environment, helping to build confidence and reduce anxiety ahead of the summer. The results will give both students and teachers a clear picture of what's going well and where further support or focus may be needed, ensuring that preparation is purposeful and targeted. Above all, we want every student to approach the PPEs feeling prepared, positive, and proud of the hard work they've put in so far, meaning every piece of revision can make a real difference.

Practical Guidance for Supporting Revision at Home

We know that the half-term break offers a valuable window for students to consolidate their learning and build confidence before the PPEs. Even short, focused bursts of revision over the break can make a real difference to how prepared they feel when they return. One of the most effective ways to support your child is by helping them to add a little structure to their time. A simple revision timetable, with clear goals, manageable study blocks, and regular breaks, can make a big difference. Encouraging students to prioritise the subjects or topics they find most challenging will help them use their time effectively and make their revision purposeful.

A calm, distraction-free space to work can also be a real game-changer. Even small steps, turning off notifications, choosing a quiet spot, or sticking to regular study times, can help students concentrate better. Many find 30–40 minute revision sessions with short breaks the most effective. Parents and carers can support by showing interest in what their child is revising, encouraging them to explain topics aloud (which helps consolidate learning), or quizzing them using simple prompts or flashcards.

We also encourage students to make the most of the excellent online tools and resources available to them. These include, but are not limited to:

- [Tassomai](#) — particularly useful for science, English and maths practice through quick, daily quizzes.
- [Sparx](#) — great for targeted maths practice tailored to individual progress.
- [Seneca Learning](#) — interactive courses for a wide range of subjects, ideal for short bursts of revision.
- [BBC Bitesize](#) — a trusted platform for clear summaries, videos and practice questions across all subjects.
- [Oak National Academy](#) — structured lessons and explanations to support key concepts.

Additionally, an updated [Subject Information Booklet](#) is now available in the Year 11 section of the school website. This document serves as a comprehensive guide to each GCSE subject, outlining the structure of the course, links to official specifications, and recommended revision materials. It also includes practical guidance on how best to support their child's exam preparation, including effective revision strategies and an overview of the content and format of each exam paper.

Finally, and just as importantly, please encourage your child to keep a healthy balance. Breaks, fresh air, rest, and downtime are essential for avoiding burnout. A well-rested, supported student will approach the PPEs with more focus, confidence and resilience.

Looking Ahead – Sixth Form Open Evening

Alongside preparations for the upcoming PPEs, this is also a key time for students to begin thinking about their next steps beyond Year 11. Having a clear sense of direction and purpose can really help to keep them focused and motivated in the months ahead, giving their hard work a clear goal to work towards.

We're incredibly proud of The Ferrers Sixth Form which offers a vibrant, ambitious and supportive environment where students are encouraged to thrive both academically and personally. With passionate subject specialists, a wide range of courses, and strong pastoral support, our students leave us exceptionally well prepared for university, apprenticeships or employment.

A reminder that our Sixth Form Open Evening will take place on **Thursday 6th November**, and all families should already have received further details. We hope to see as many of you as possible at this event, which is a fantastic opportunity to explore what makes our Sixth Form such a successful and inspiring place to study. Please don't forget to book your tickets via [Ticket Source](#) to secure one of the few remaining places. We know that having a clear plan for the future can make a real difference to how students approach their learning now, and we look forward to supporting them on this next exciting step.

Thank you once again for your continued support throughout this term. We know that the build-up to mock exams can feel like a significant moment for both students and families, but with clear preparation, a balanced routine and strong communication between home and school, we are confident that every young person can approach this period with resilience and self-belief. Please remember that you are not alone in supporting them, we are here to help every step of the way. If you have any questions, concerns or need further guidance, don't hesitate to get in touch with your child's tutor, senior tutor, SSA or subject teachers. By working together,

we can give our students the best possible foundation for success, not just academically, but in their confidence, independence and wellbeing too.

We wish all our students a productive but restful half-term and look forward to welcoming them back, ready to tackle the PPEs with positivity and determination.

Yours sincerely,

M Garrod

Mrs Michelle Garrod
Assistant Principal (Achievement and Progress)