

**Principal: Mr D McGilloway**

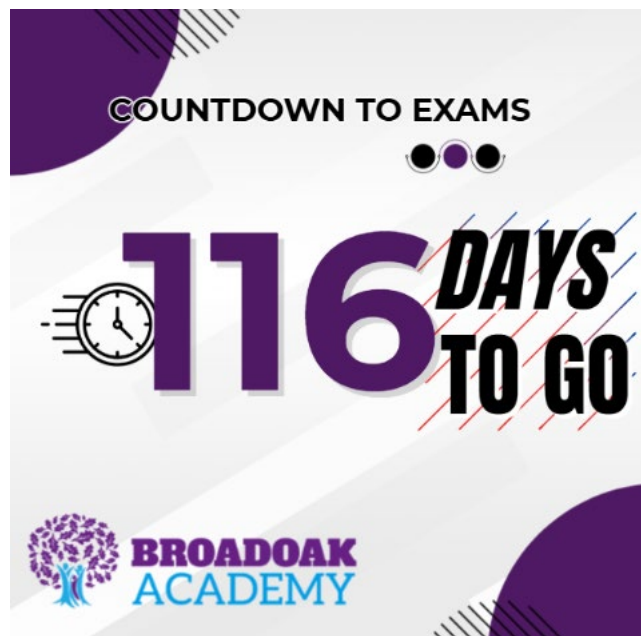
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**Dear Y11 Families,**

Can you believe it, we are really here. Year 11 – the final year of school! Emotional times for families, students and the teachers and colleagues who have cared and guided them for so long.

**There are 116 days between September 22<sup>nd</sup> and the Easter break 2026 – eeeeeek!**



I am writing to inform you about the current progress of the year group. **We are concerned about some of the outcomes of the Y11 students in their Y10 PPEs.** Having spoken to students, families and teachers we are aware that:

- Some students found these PPEs a challenge as their first 'big exams.'
- Some students did not complete the required home learning and revision which would have given them a much-needed boost.
- Many students find revision difficult.



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*Maximising students'  
abilities, ambitions  
and academic potential*

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- Many have found the discipline of independent revision a challenge.
- Some students have found that they aren't clear about what to work on to improve.

## Common myths

As your child continues their journey through GCSEs, I wanted to take a moment to share an important perspective on their academic development. We know English and Maths are important—they're needed for most jobs, college courses, and apprenticeships. But they're not the only subjects that matter.

GCSEs are designed to provide students with a well-rounded education. Subjects such as Science, History, Geography, Art, and Languages play a vital role in developing critical thinking, creativity, and cultural awareness. These are not just academic skills—they are life skills that help shape confident, capable individuals.

Focusing solely on English and Maths can unintentionally narrow a student's experience. Success in other subjects often boosts motivation and self-esteem, which in turn supports stronger performance across the board—including in English and Maths. A varied curriculum also helps students discover their passions and strengths, which is essential for making informed choices about future study or careers.

Moreover, universities and employers increasingly value students who demonstrate versatility and engagement across a range of disciplines. A strong performance in multiple subjects can open doors that a narrow focus might leave closed. So while we'll keep helping your child do their best in English and Maths, we also encourage them to take all their subjects seriously. **Every subject is a chance to succeed.**



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# WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

WHAT WE WILL DO	&	WHERE WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT
Tell students their working grades and their target grades for each subject	 GOAL	Ask your child what grade they are working on in their subjects - if they don't know, encourage them to ask
Tell students what to do in each subject to gain more marks in the next assessment	 IMPROVE	Ask your child the question: 'What do you need to do to improve in SUBJECT?'
Support through in-class help, tuition, intervention and after school P7 sessions	 PROGRESS	Ensure your child knows what is on offer for them and they engage with this - some are by individual invite
Set exam papers as independent learning, as well as SENECA.COM to increase retention of key info	 HIT TARGETS	Ask your child to show you their SENECA account and their progress. Ask them to show you the papers they are completing



Warm regards,  
 Nichole Simpson  
**Associate Assistant Principal – KS4 Raising Attainment**



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**Rolls-Royce**

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