



JOSEPH PAXTON CAMPUS

Wirral Hospitals' School
"Working together to make everything better"
An Ofsted "Outstanding" School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

We are aware that we are approaching a very important school year for students and would like you to be aware of the support available. We recognise that, in these uncertain times, you and your child may have many concerns about what next year will look like and how we will support you. Clearly, there is still lots of uncertainty and changes to come, but what will not change is our commitment to helping your child make a successful transition to the next stage of their education and setting out on a path around their interests, aspirations and skills. We will be with you all the way.

Attached is a 'normal' visual plan of the year we show to students at the end of year 10 to help them understand the support in place throughout year 11. We thought you might find it helpful too, even though some of the timings may be different next year. As soon as we can make an accurate version for your child to show them what next year will look like, we will – this might not be until September.

Exams

We do not yet know what next year's GCSE exam season will look like, but we have to assume there will be exams. Students will be supported and prepared for their exams by their subject teachers and House Base. We offer a lot of support to students during the exams themselves so that they can feel as focused as possible on the day. These are called Access Arrangements. All students in our school are allowed supervised rest breaks. This means they can take a break during the exam and have time out to calm/refocus without losing time from the exam itself. All students can have a prompt, that is, staff can speak to them to check their focus, help them stay on task, etc. Other arrangements are made on an individual basis as needed. Please contact your child's Head of House if they or you have any concerns around this.

Next Steps

All students will have access to our Careers Advisors to think about what they would like to study after Year 11 and where they would like to attend. We would usually like them to apply before Christmas, as this will help us in liaising with their college about support they might find helpful. It is OK to apply for more than one course and we do like students to have a fall-back plan should things not work out as they hoped. Colleges usually have Open Days that some students have found helpful. However, sometimes these days can be busier than a normal college day and students can find this overwhelming. Previously we have

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arranged visits to some colleges and have supported families by liaising with the college to arrange an individualised visit for your child, based on their interests, strengths and difficulties. We don't yet know if/when this will be available next year but we will keep talking to the colleges about how to manage this area as we move forward.

Normally, we create an individual transition support plan for each student which we agree with you and your child and share with the college they are applying to. We hope to do this as normal next year but, again, we will need to wait and see how the colleges are working. Sometimes, we apply for an Education Health Care Plan where we feel additional support to that already available at the college is needed. We would discuss this with you before any application is made.

From September onwards, we recommend looking at the websites of local colleges and finding out about the courses on offer and what might look interesting. You will have worries and unanswered questions so keep a note of these so we can think about them with you.

Sixth Form Provision on the Wirral

- **Wirral Met College** has many courses at different levels and a support team we have worked closely with. Many of our students go on to this college. One of the benefits has been that, as courses are at different levels, students can get on to a lower level course while they are making this challenging transition and then progress on to a level more in line with their ability once they feel secure in their new placement. Students can progress from here, and all the colleges below, into employment, further training, apprenticeships or university.
- **Birkenhead Sixth Form** offers A level courses. This is a more demanding route requiring excellent attendance and the ability to study well both in college and at home. You generally need GCSE grades at 5 and above. We also work closely with the support team here and some of our students have taken this route and been successful.
- A levels are also available through the **Sixth Forms attached to local schools**. Again, grades at 5 and above, good attendance (above 95%) and the motivation to study hard at home and in college are essential.
- Some of our students look at colleges further afield such as **West Cheshire College** or **The City of Liverpool College**. Obviously, these colleges have implications in terms of transport but we have worked with all of these colleges around support for our students.
- Every year we have some students who have skills and a keen interest in a specialised area and may find other placements that interest them also. Not every college is set up around the kind of support some of our students need but we will work with you exploring that so that you can make informed choices as we go along.

Please contact your child's Head of House to discuss any questions or concerns you have about Year 11 and the transition to Post 16 education. Remember, we will be involved in this process with you all the way!

Yours faithfully

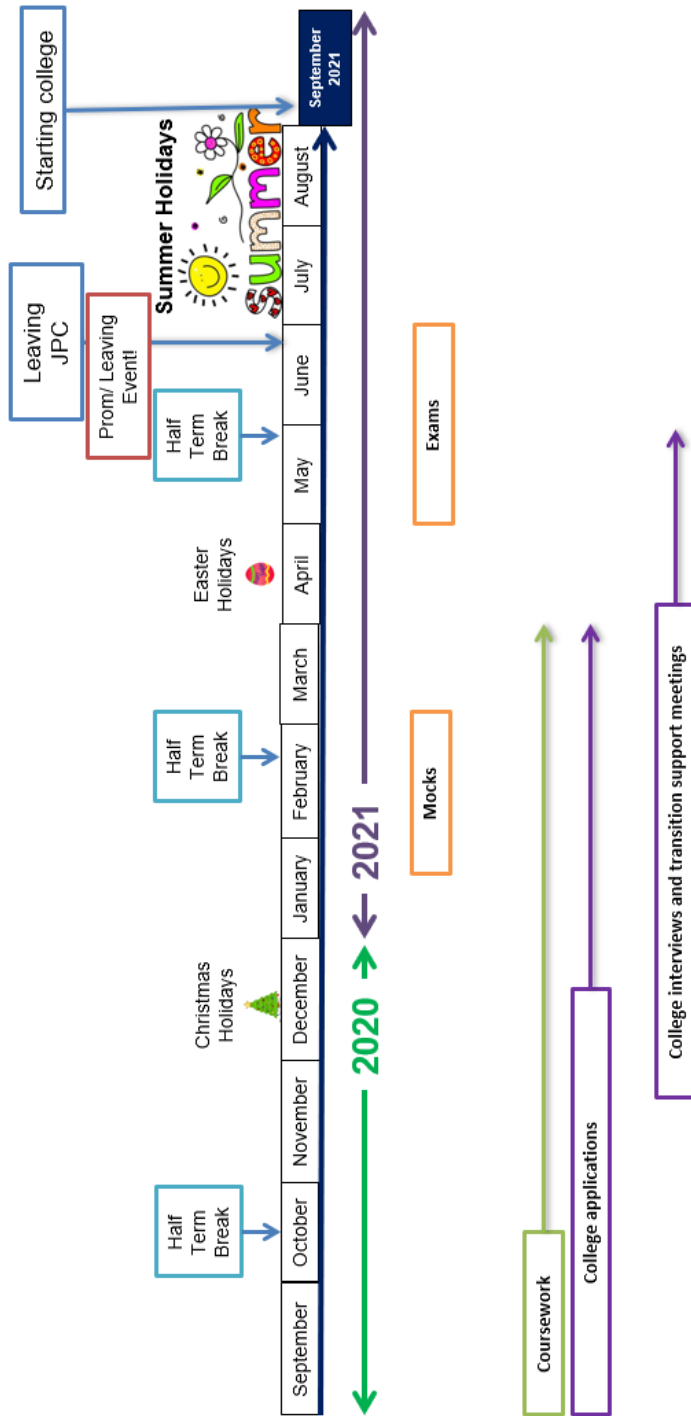
Helen O'Loughlin
Head of Blue House

Pauline Hoey
Head of Green House

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Year 11



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Artemark Gold Award
Awarded by Arts Council England

