



22<sup>nd</sup> September 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you and to offer my support to you and your child as they move through Year 11, a notoriously difficult year. I've been there with my own sons and it is not easy!

This is my second year at Beacon Hill Community School after having previously taught at Silloth Community School for 26 years, many of those teaching two GCSE subjects and specifically nurturing Year 11. I know that students need to use their time positively before they sit their mock exams in December, and then the real ones which will start in May. It's not a year; it is about 150 school days. That should sound scary!

GCSEs are hard work. Both the volume of subject content and the level of difficulty of every subject increases in Year 11 and we need to make it clear to students that they will, if they are to be successful, have to up their game from now. To help them keep up to date I will be staying at school until 5pm every Wednesday so they can come to F2, the ICT room, and work either on homework, Art, BTEC PE or just helping to keep pace with the volume of work in front of them. I hope you will encourage your child to make the most of this opportunity and attend the sessions. The days available may increase as we near important times in the year, and there will come a point where attendance at these sessions will be compulsory. If your child ever tells you they have nothing to do I am afraid that is not quite true! Other teachers are also running after school sessions (Science and Art, for example). Year 11 are also having Study Skills sessions four mornings a week with me to open their eyes to the wide variety of options for that dreaded word, revision.

If you are concerned about your child at any point please call school or email me and I will get back to you as soon as I can. Attendance and Effort are my two key words this year. If these are both right, then your child has a much better chance of achieving the best they can. We want your child to be able to go on to the Post 16 career path of their choice, with the qualifications and attitude that make them a great employee.

If I have concerns about your child I will be in touch with you and not wait until a Parents' Evening. We have to work as a partnership this year and have realistic expectations regarding behaviour and effort. I am well practised at being 'Mum/Nana' at school!

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with any worries or concerns.

Kind regards,

AVRIL QUINN

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