

18<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of the first half term of this academic year, I wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate our Year 11s on a very successful start to their final year at St Antony's.

We have been delighted to see great numbers of students at the after school sessions on a Wednesday or Thursday. Not only have almost all of the year group turned up, they have participated in the session and feedback has been very positive.

The behavioural statistics for the year group are also very positive. Less Year 11s have been exited from lessons than in any other year group indicating that they are engaged in their learning and have returned to school with a very positive mindset.

Attendance has also been strong. It is essential that students are here every lesson, every day. Please continue to support us with this. Our internal research shows that attendance is the strongest factor in predicting GCSE outcomes: high attendance, good grades; poor attendance, weaker grades.

The students are ploughing ahead with their college application forms, being supported by Mrs Doherty, their form tutors and PHSE teachers. I understand that these, and their personal statements and CVs, are high quality and again indicate that the students are working hard to ensure they have plans in place for September 2020.

Congratulations and thanks are in order as well to our Student Leadership Team. This is the first time we have asked this group of students to help with duties at lunch time and they have stepped up to this challenge in a very impressive manner.

We have lots of support planned for the next half term. We are having a presentation on apprenticeships and a mock interview day when the students will get to prepare for their college interviews. They have Maths and RE assessments coming up soon and, with this in mind, should be revising and preparing for these assessments for at least an hour a day over the half term break.

We are here for the students. If there is anything we can help them with to get themselves as well prepared as possible for their Mocks in January and then their actual GCSEs in the summer, please do not hesitate to ask.

With kind regards,

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Mrs Wright – Headteacher

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