

5 October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 11 GCSE Success: What Matters Now
Thursday 22 October, 5.00-6.00pm

Over the past few weeks, I have been meeting individually with every Year 11 student to talk about their progress, their ambitions and, importantly, what they feel they need to focus on now. These one-to-one meetings have become something of a Year 11 rite of passage at Northampton School for Girls. We have been running them for several years now and, for me, they are one of the most valuable parts of the year. They give every student the opportunity to sit down, reflect honestly on where they are, talk about what they want to achieve and consider what needs to happen next. They are also a small but important reflection of the commitment we make to knowing our students well and supporting them as individuals.

While I have not yet met with all the year group and still have a few tutor groups remaining to see in the coming weeks, I have really valued the conversations with them. They have given me the opportunity to hear directly from students about what is going well, where they are feeling confident and, equally, where they know they need to make some significant changes to ensure their success: they have been incredibly reflective and incredibly honest. With seven months ahead before the first set of GCSE examinations, there is a great deal of Year 11 still to come, and the habits, choices and routines students establish now really can make a significant difference.

Of course, parents and carers are such an important part of that journey too. Supporting a child through Year 11 is not always straightforward. We know that you want to encourage them to do their very best, while also helping them to become increasingly independent and ensuring that GCSEs do not become the only conversation at home.

I am therefore delighted that Mrs Blakey and Dr Bell have put together our **Year 11 GCSE Success: What Matters Now workshop**, which will take place on **Thursday 22 October**, from **5.00 - 6.00pm**.

They have designed the evening specifically to give parents and carers practical, useful guidance about the things that are most likely to make a difference over the months ahead and how you can support their success. Specifically, the session will cover:

- the Year 11 journey, including the important dates and milestones between now and the GCSE examinations;
- revision that works and makes a difference, including practical, evidence-informed approaches students can begin using now;
- how parents and carers can support effective routines and habits at home without creating overwhelming pressure;
- the additional support, resources and opportunities available to students in school; and
- how we can maintain high expectations for students while also supporting their wellbeing and helping them to keep things in perspective.

The workshop is primarily for parents and carers, although Year 11 students are very welcome to attend with you. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions as part of the session.

One of the messages I am sharing with every student during my one-to-one meetings is that what matters now is what they do next. There is still time to improve, to build confidence, to strengthen a particular subject and to change habits that may not yet be helping them. Small changes, made now and sustained over time, can, and often do, have a very significant impact.

I know how much thought Mrs Blakey and Dr Bell have put into this evening and I am very grateful to them for doing so. I think it will be a genuinely useful opportunity for us to share with you some of what we know works, to help you understand the support available in school and, most importantly, to strengthen the partnership between home and school as we support our Year 11 students through the months ahead.

We hope you will be able to join us. To reserve a space please visit the link below by Thursday 15th October.

<https://www.ticketsource.com/spinneytheatre/t-kdpvppy>



With very best wishes,



Cristiana Taboada-Naya | Headteacher

