

19th January 2026



YEAR 11 UPDATE

WELCOME FROM MISS STANIFORTH

Welcome to the second edition of this Year 11 update newsletter. It seems remarkable that a month of school has already passed since the last one, and we have passed the half way mark between the start of Year 11 and the first whole cohort GCSE exam!

There are lots of key messages about upcoming dates in this update, including 'drop down days' for subjects with coursework and project work, and the dates of the forthcoming mock exams.

THE MID-WAY POINT

Last week, in Monday's assembly, I shared with students that we are now past the mid-point of the year: they have completed 77 days of Year 11, with 70 school days remaining until the first whole-cohort exam. I explained that two things are true at the same time: students are past the starting line, but not yet at the finish line. They are in the middle – a point at which many people lose focus, not because they do not care, but because the excitement of September has faded and the urgency of exams has not yet fully arrived. We discussed how this period is an opportunity zone: a time to make the most of the 'ordinary days' and to put effort in now so that the intensity of the exam period feels more manageable.

We also talked about what this looks like in practice: working hard in every lesson, taking opportunities to revise each day (with a day off at the weekend), and forming strong habits that can continue even on days when motivation is lower.

Students were encouraged to reflect on the simple question that the most successful Year 11s ask themselves: What is the next small thing I can do right now? This is not "How do I revise everything?" or "How do I fix all my grades?", but rather, "What one exam question could I practise now?" or "Where can I find an extra ten minutes to make one more flashcard?"

This is also why attendance is absolutely crucial. Every lesson a student attends is an opportunity to understand something more clearly, ask a question, and make future revision easier. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring your child attends school every day.

POST-16 APPLICATIONS

Applications to post-16 providers, including colleges, sixth forms and apprenticeships, have been continuing in recent weeks.

For students applying to providers in Norfolk, 'HelpYouChoose' is a fantastic website which can be used to search and apply for a huge range of courses including apprenticeships. If your child has forgotten their login details, please ask them to come and see me in the Study Space at breaktime or lunchtime.

For students applying outside of Norfolk, for example to Long Road or Long Road in Cambridge, or to West Suffolk College in Bury St Edmunds, applications must be made directly to those providers via their websites.

We know that most students have applied already, and it's been really exciting to hear about their interviews and offers coming in! We are in the process of collecting some destinations data so we know which students we can further support with applications as well as provide more independent information, advice and guidance.

By means of an update, please find lists below of providers who are now closed, closing soon, or still open to applications. There are also a number of courses which are close to full at WSC and CWA, so urgent applications are strongly encouraged.

NOW CLOSED

Dereham Sixth Form
Reepham Sixth Form
Hills Road Sixth Form

STILL OPEN

Long Road Sixth Form
Cambridge Maths School
UTCN
Springwood Sixth Form
Sheringham Sixth Form
Sprowston Sixth Form

CLOSING SOON

31st January: Fakenham Sixth Form
31st March: Sir Isaac Newton Sixth Form, Jane Austen College

LUNCHTIME AND AFTER SCHOOL INTERVENTION

Our lunchtime and after school intervention programmes continue this term. We strongly recommend students attend these sessions if they are able to do so. They will be rewarded not just in their GCSE results, but also with 10 positive points for each session they attend!

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime	Geography Computer Science			Religious Studies	History
After School (3.15pm-4.00pm unless specified)	Maths		English French (Wk 2 only) Art (until 5pm) 3DD (until 5pm)	Science Sports Studies	

DROP DOWN DAYS

Drop Down Days play an important role in supporting students who study coursework or project-based subjects. These days provide extended, uninterrupted time for pupils to focus on completing key pieces of assessed work, receive targeted guidance from subject specialists, and make meaningful progress without the usual pressures of a full timetable. Attendance and active engagement on these days are essential, as the work completed often contributes directly to final grades and cannot easily be replicated outside school. We greatly appreciate your support in ensuring students attend fully prepared and ready to make the most of these valuable opportunities.

The Drop Down Days will take place on the following dates:

- Thursday 22nd January: Child Development
- Monday 26th January: 'Block D' drop down day for Art, Sports Studies, Food Preparation and Nutrition
- Thursday 29th January: 'Block C' drop down day for Drama, Food Preparation and Nutrition, 3D Design

Please note that I1D 3D Design have already completed their Drop Down Day.

STUDY SPACE

Study Space is busier than ever, and it's been great to see how many students have made use of it since we returned from the Christmas break! We have now logged more than 1800 visits - up 300 since the last Year 11 Update!

The LRA is open every break and lunchtime for students to complete quiet independent revision. I can also offer post-16 application and study skill support, too.

Students receive 10 positive points for every focused visit, and you can therefore see your child's attendance and use of the space by checking MyChildAtSchool.

STUDY SENECA SUPPORT

ICENI SECONDARY ACADEMY

STUDY SPACE

— YEAR 11 ONLY —

LRA, EVERY DAY // BREAK LUNCH

SUPERCHARGE YOUR RESULTS

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION SEE MISS STANFORTH
AIM HIGH, WORK HARD, BE KIND

MOCK EXAM TIMETABLE

Please find below the timetable for the forthcoming mock examinations. These will be the final set of formal mock exams that students sit before their GCSEs, and they play an important role in helping pupils prepare for the demands of the real exam period. While students will continue to complete assessments and exam-style work in lessons, these mocks provide a valuable opportunity to practise exam routines, manage time under pressure, and identify any final areas for improvement. We encourage all students to approach these examinations seriously and use the outcomes to guide their revision in the weeks that follow.

Day	Date	Subject	Start Time	End Time	Extra Time Finish
Monday	09/02/2026	English Language Paper 1	8.45am	10.30am	10.55am
		Maths Paper 1	11.30am	1.00pm	1.23pm
Tuesday	10/02/2026	Biology Paper 2	9.00am	10.15am	10.34am
		Maths Paper 2	11.30am	1.00pm	1.23pm
Wednesday	11/02/2026	English Literature Paper 1	8.45am	10.30am	10.55am
		Chemistry Paper 2	11.30am	12.45pm	1.04pm
		Geography Paper 1	2.15pm	2.45pm	2.53pm
Thursday	12/02/2026	Maths Paper 3	9.00am	10.30am	10.53am
		History	11.30am	1.00pm	1.23pm
Friday	13/02/2026	Physics Paper 2	9.00am	10.15am	10.34am
		Geography Paper 2	11.30am	1.00pm	1.23pm
Monday	23/02/2026	Religious Studies Paper 2A	9.00am	10.45am	11.12am

MYTUTOR

We're really excited for the students who are starting their English or maths tutoring this week through MyTutor, our online tutoring programme that provides small-group, live lessons with trained tutors, fully funded by the academy. Over half of our Year 11 cohort is already benefiting from this support. If your child would like to be added to the waiting list for this tutoring opportunity, please ask them to come and see me in Study Space.

I'm also delighted to share that we will shortly be offering a small number of students additional MyTutor tutoring in History or Geography. I will be in touch directly with families very soon where this opportunity is available.

TOP 10S

It was lovely to celebrate the successes of the Autumn Term in the last update. With students working hard to form new habits, in this issue I'd like to celebrate our 'Top Tens of 2026' - the students who have already made an impression in the first nine days of the new term. Well done, everyone!

STUDY SPACE TOP 10

=1st: Dayton G, Dylan W, Scarlett P

=2nd: Jack A, Phoebe E, Angel F, Ella-Rose W

=3rd: Logan J, Max K, Shay T, Emily H, Robbie P, Carley S

SENECA TOP 10

1st: Katie McK

2nd: Sam M-B

3rd: Max K

4th: Elodi M

5th: Leo D-G

6th: Jack A

7th: Eve B

8th: Hester D

9th: Shay T

10th: Elivia M

POSITIVE POINTS TOP 10

1st: Jack A

2nd: Robbie P

3rd: Scarlett P

4th: Dylan W

5th: Logan J

6th: Ella-Rose W

7th: Max K

8th: Phoebe E

9th: Sam M-B

10th: Emily H

FORM TIME

We have recently refined our approach to Year 11 morning meetings to ensure this time has maximum impact. Rather than bringing the whole year group together in the Hall, students are now taught in smaller groups on a rotating carousel, led by subject specialists, three mornings a week. This allows for more targeted support, greater opportunity for questioning, and teaching that is closely matched to students' exam courses. Groups have been organised so that sessions are relevant to the subjects students study (for example, History and/or Geography), enabling specialist intervention that was not possible in a large-group setting. Alongside English, maths and science, students also take part in a Futures session focused on post-16 pathways and essential real-world knowledge. Early feedback has been extremely positive, with strong engagement and clear benefits from the increased individual attention.