



4<sup>th</sup> October 2013

Dear Parent/Carer

I am sure that you will have picked up on the latest announcement by the government that has changed the rules on entering students early for GCSE exams. Having now had time to consider the situation, we have decided to withdraw all of our students from the November exams and focus our preparations on the June entry. The changes do not impact on any boy who has already passed Maths last year.

Although last minute change is not great, I can assure you that we have a clear strategy in place to help our Year 11 students achieve success in their exams. To this end we are carrying out internal exams in English, Maths, all Sciences, History and Geography from next week.

The purpose of these exams is to provide us with the most accurate assessments of our boys' strengths and weaknesses across the curriculum, so that we can plan an effective intervention programme for every student over the remaining time that they have this year.

This will include:

- Extra classes after school and in the holidays where necessary.
- Establishing smaller classes for borderline students in English and Maths.
- Creating extra lessons during the day for some boys to support their progress in English.
- Setting up mentoring groups to support students who may be showing signs of struggling in a range of subjects.

My commitment is to securing success for every student in Year 11.

Mr Leadbitter, Head of Upper School, will be coordinating our work with Year 11 and I know that he is always happy to hear from parents if you have any questions or concerns. He can be contacted either via the main school telephone number or by email: [w.leadbitter@arkwilliamparker.org](mailto:w.leadbitter@arkwilliamparker.org).

We will be running a Year 11 Information Evening at 7pm on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November in the school hall. This will be an opportunity to meet Mr Leadbitter and other members of the Senior Leadership Team and find out more about our programme to secure success for your son.

I look forward to meeting you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Phillips', with a small flourish at the end.

M Phillips  
**PRINCIPAL**