



RESILIENCE • RESPECT • INTEGRITY • COMMUNITY

The Ongar Academy, Fyfield Road, Ongar, CM5 0AN

Tel: 01277 500990

Email: admin@theongaracademy.org • Website: www.theongaracademy.org

Director of Education for Ongar & Headteacher: Mr. A. Osborne

First Deputy Headteacher: Ms. E. Ruffles

6th September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 11 Interventions – SPL Year 10 & 11

I wanted to write to you to introduce myself and tell you about the range of activities that The Ongar Academy is putting in place to support your child through Year 11. I joined the academy in May as Assistant Headteacher and in September I will be taking up my role as SPL for Years 10 and 11. I have been teaching since 2002 and in that time, as a Class Teacher, Form Tutor, Head of Department and Head of Sixth Form, I have prepared thousands of students for public examinations. I am really looking forward to getting to know your children and encouraging them to achieve the grades that they need for the next stage of their academic lives, whether that be apprenticeships, college courses or sixth form study.

Year 11 can be a stressful and worrisome time for students and their families. There will be times when your child will be confused about what they are doing, how they should be doing it and why they are doing it. Equally there will be times when your child is ecstatic about a breakthrough moment in a subject, an improved test result or the completion of a really difficult and challenging piece of coursework. It is a year of ups and downs, but rest assured that The Ongar Academy is putting in a diverse range of strategies to support your child through the process. Below I have outlined some, not all, of these strategies:

1. Form Time

This is a precious 20-minute slot every day where the tutor can really support your child with a vast range of GCSE skills and careers outlook. I have put together the following programme to raise aspirations, support revision skills, develop a sense of self and help identify potential career opportunities:

- **Motivational Mondays** - follows the highly acclaimed VESPA GCSE mindset programme, helping students to reflect on why their education is important and how to cope with the challenge of Year 11.
- **Transformational Tuesdays** – training students in a range of revision techniques. Students should bring classwork books to this session so that they can start to practice the techniques being taught.
- **Work-Life Wednesdays** – discussing beyond 16 and 18 options and opportunities.
- **Thoughtful Thursday** – PSHE sessions focusing on identity and what it means to be me.





RESILIENCE • RESPECT • INTEGRITY • COMMUNITY

The Ongar Academy, Fyfield Road, Ongar, CM5 0AN

Tel: 01277 500990

Email: admin@theongaracademy.org • Website: www.theongaracademy.org

Director of Education for Ongar & Headteacher: Mr. A. Osborne

First Deputy Headteacher: Ms. E. Ruffles

In addition, our Heads of English, Mathematics and Science will be withdrawing targeted students for small group subject sessions. These sessions will take place over a period of 4 weeks and progress will be measured at the start and end of the process. You will receive communication from our subject leads if your child is involved in these support sessions.

2. Afterschool Aspiration Sessions

These will take place every day after school between 3:00 and 4:00pm and will provide opportunities to revisit learning from year 10, improve exam technique and to identify areas of the course that students need particular support with mastering. Your child will receive a personalised after school timetable with their subjects highlighted. There are a few students who take more than one subject that is offered on a particular night, we have looked at the data and decided which subject they should attend – this will be revisited after the first term. While these sessions are not compulsory they will be extremely beneficial and our expectation is that students should make every endeavour to attend.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A	Private study at home Science targeted students	English	French or Spanish	DT, Food or Drama	Computing History
B	Private study at home Science targeted students	Computing Geography	Science	Maths	Art or PE

3. Holiday Aspiration Sessions

As the exams draw even closer it is my experience that students often need the security of having a quiet place to revise away from all other distractions. To that end, school will be open on selected days during Easter and May half term holidays to allow a space for revision. In addition, subjects might decide to offer masterclasses or themed revision days around certain elements of the course. Details of these will be communicated to you in advance.





RESILIENCE • RESPECT • INTEGRITY • COMMUNITY

The Ongar Academy, Fyfield Road, Ongar, CM5 0AN



Tel: 01277 500990

Email: admin@theongaracademy.org • Website: www.theongaracademy.org

Director of Education for Ongar & Headteacher: Mr. A. Osborne

First Deputy Headteacher: Ms. E. Ruffles

4. Mentoring

As mentioned previously Y11 can be difficult to navigate so myself and Miss Silverton, our Key Stage 4 Pastoral Lead, will be having one to one and small group meetings with a range of students with a range of needs. The aim here is to foresee problems and create solutions, enabling the student to feel more confident about their studies and future aspirations. Alternatively, it may help teach the student strategies for dealing with stress, or managing the high expectations that young people often put on themselves.

5. Parent/Carer and Student 'Exam Ready' Support Sessions

The first of these sessions will be held on Wednesday 25th September at 6pm. The purpose of the session is to discuss what to expect in Year 11, how parents/carers can work with the school to maximise their child's potential and to discuss the range of support that is available. I very much hope to see every family present with their child as we embark on the Year 11 journey together.

A dedicated Year 11 tab has been set up on our website, so that you as parents/carers can access form time resources and a list of recommended revision materials and any other information relevant to your child's academic success. Once this has been updated, we will inform parents and carers via email.

I hope this has given you an idea of just some of the strategies we at The Ongar Academy are putting in place for your child. I ask you to keep in mind that everything we put in place has come from tried and tested strategies used by a range of schools that have yielded results. All I ask of you as parents is to keep the form tutors fully up to speed with any information they might need to know with regards to any difficulties your child might be having in or outside of school, and that you send your child to school every day. Each lesson missed is a potential question on an exam paper that your child will be unable to answer.

I am really excited to work with this fantastic year group and look forward to celebrating their GCSE results with them in August 2020.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. A. Robinson-Smith
Assistant Headteacher & Senior Progress Leader Y10 & 11

