

Thursday 10th September 2026

RE: Year 11 Champions Hour

Dear Parents and Carers,

My name is **Mr Newey** and I am delighted to introduce myself as **Head of Year 11 and Raising Standards at Gracewood Academy**. Throughout my career, I have worked across a range of schools, leading Year 11 cohorts, sixth forms and teams of teachers to achieve excellent outcomes for young people. I am passionate about helping students fulfil their potential and ensuring every child leaves school with the qualifications and opportunities they deserve. I am excited to be working in partnership with you and your child this year as we support our Year 11 students through this important stage of their education and towards the best possible outcomes next summer.

Last summer, Gracewood Academy celebrated our strongest Year 11 outcomes in almost a decade. These results were not achieved by chance. They were the result of students attending school every day, engaging fully in their learning, making the most of our Champions Hour provision, and benefiting from the expertise of exceptional teachers who supported them relentlessly throughout the year. We also saw remarkable individual success stories, including students who began Year 11 working at Grade 2 in some subjects and left us achieving Grade 8s. Their journeys demonstrate what is possible when students work hard, attend regularly and fully engage with the support available. As we begin this crucial year, we are confident that our teaching staff are exceptionally well placed to help every student make strong progress from their Year 10 mock examination results. We ask for your support in encouraging your child to follow our guidance, attend every day and make the most of the opportunities available to them.

Introducing Champions Hour

We are delighted to confirm that **Champions Hour will begin next week** and will take place every **Monday, Tuesday and Thursday**. Champions Hour is designed to teach students how to revise effectively whilst providing them with a calm, structured and purposeful environment in which to do so. We know that many students want to succeed but are not always sure how to revise effectively. These sessions will help students build those essential study habits now, so that they reap the rewards when examinations arrive.

The majority of students will attend Champions Hour in the dedicated Year 11 space in **C2.1**, where they will complete focused and silent study. Alongside this, we will run a smaller nurture group for students who require additional support to ensure all students can access the programme successfully.

To support students, we will provide all necessary study materials, including:

- A revision ring binder
- Dividers
- Subject resources
- Organised revision materials

This will become each student's dedicated **Year 11 revision folder**, which they will use throughout the year.

A key focus of Champions Hour will be **retrieval practice**, helping students strengthen their memory and secure the knowledge they need for success in their examinations. Throughout the year, these sessions will also be adapted to meet student needs and may include: Additional English lessons, Additional Maths lessons, Additional Science lessons, Coursework clinics, Option subject intervention sessions, Examination preparation workshops.

Mock Examinations

Year 11 students will sit their first mock examinations shortly after October half term, beginning on **9 November**. Further information regarding mock examination routines, expectations and the timetable will be shared with families in due course.

Individual Student Meetings

Over the coming weeks, members of the Senior Leadership Team will meet individually with every Year 11 student. These meetings will provide an opportunity to:

- Discuss aspirations and future goals
- Identify any barriers to success
- Agree personalised support
- Explore next steps following Year 11

These conversations will help ensure every student feels supported, focused and clear about what they need to do to achieve their ambitions. Year 11 is an exciting and important year, and we are incredibly proud of the positive start students have made. We look forward to working closely with you throughout the year and supporting every student to achieve the very best outcomes possible.

We appreciate your support in ensuring students approach this important period with focus and commitment. If you have any questions about the mock exams or Champions Hour or the parent event, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours faithfully,
Charlie Newey
Assistant Principal
Gracewood Academy