



September 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the support you have given, in what has been a very positive start to Year 11.

At this time of year that we are usually inundated with requests from parents, carers and students to be withdrawn from GCSE courses. Whilst we completely appreciate that some students may feel that certain subjects are less important than others, preferring to focus their efforts elsewhere, it is not possible for us to grant these requests. It is for students to decide where they would like to focus their revision but we do expect them to continue with the GCSE courses they have been following for the past two years. Invariably, requests are based on the need for additional time to focus on Mathematics and English. This year, those in Year 11 have more Mathematics and English lessons than in any previous years [*ten per week*]. Our timetable does not have the capacity to enable a large number of them to come out of options lessons, as there would simply be nowhere else for them to go. Therefore, in order to manage this, the school policy states that they may only be withdrawn from GCSE courses on medical grounds, providing we have a written request from a hospital consultant or a CAMHS professional.

It is our absolute priority to support our students to the best of our ability and we believe that examination pressure on them this year should be greatly reduced, as they have already completed their RS and PE examinations in Year 10. This has enabled us to support them all with an extra English and Mathematics lesson

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely

James Pratt
Director of Learning for Year 11

Seaford Head Academy Trust

Mr R Ellis, Headteacher

Arundel Road, Seaford, East Sussex, BN25 4LX

01323 891623 / reception@seafordhead.org / www.seafordhead.org

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