11th January 2018

Dear parent/carer,

**Re: GCSE Results and Next Steps**

As we begin 2018, I write to celebrate the excellent performance of our Year 11 students in their November entry examinations. We are delighted that in mathematics/Numeracy, more than 40% of students have achieved an A*-A in one of the subjects, while 83% of all grades were at A*-C. Similarly, in English Language, more than a third of students achieved an A*-A, with 86% of all grades at A*-C. These results are a reflection of the outstanding efforts of our students and the fantastic support provided by staff within the respective teams.

From next week, the mathematics timetable and classes will change to reflect these outcomes and support students moving forward. All students will be placed into one of a range of new groups for their mathematics lessons at school based on the following:

- students who have secured an A*-A in mathematics and/or Numeracy and are considering studying A levels in mathematics and/or science. These students will continue with six lessons of additional mathematics content with three lessons of independent supervised study. These student may wish to gain accreditation for this course. However, families will be asked to cover the cost of entry for this extra qualification;
- students who have achieved a C-B in mathematics and/or Numeracy but wish to improve (one or both), regardless of whether they have hit their target grade or not. These students will re-sit in the summer; and
- students who have yet to secure at least a C grade in mathematics and/or Numeracy.

Students who have secured their target grade in mathematics and/or Numeracy and, following agreement with you as parents, do not wish to further improve their grade(s) may undertake supervised independent study. During this time, these students will be able to focus on raising their performance in other subjects, such as English and science. If you wish for your child to utilise this time then I should be grateful if you would email your permission to Miss Parry, Deputy Head parrys@bishopofllandaff.org by Wednesday 17th January 2017.

This is the first time that we have entered students for English Language at an early stage. However, given all of our students sit English Literature, they will continue with their lessons as normal but with the possibility of some slight class changes to reflect the needs of students. This will enable each child to work at a pace suitable to them.

With increasing examination fees at a time where school budgets have been cut year on year, we are unable to afford all re-sit costs for a third attempt. The school will fund all entries up to B grade, given this is a required standard for many popular professional routes. We will also cover the cost of entry for those students entitled to a free a school meal and only those re-sit entries where students have yet to achieve their FFT estimate grade. If you wish your child to attempt a further re-sit, even if they have hit their target grade then we would ask you to cover the cost for this. If you have any questions about this please contact Ms Ganner, Assistant Head ganners@bishopofllandaff.org

Your continued support as families is invaluable as we seek to help all our students to achieve their full potential.

Yours sincerely,

Marc Belli
Headteacher