



September 2026

Headteacher - Ms N Sheppard

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to Year 11 – Preparing for GCSE Success and Future Pathways

Welcome to the start of Year 11! This is a pivotal academic year as your child prepares for their final GCSE and vocational qualifications and plans their transition to post-16 education, apprenticeships, or training.

By working closely in partnership with you, our aim is to ensure every student feels fully supported, motivated, and equipped to reach their full potential over the coming months.

1. Attendance & Expectations: Every Day Counts

Attendance during Year 11 is critical, as every lesson missed creates direct gaps in subject knowledge and exam preparation. We expect 100% attendance across the year to give your child the best possible foundation for success. Please support us by ensuring your child attends school every day and arrives on time, ready to learn.

2. Key Dates & Assessment Timeline (2026/2027)

To help you plan and support your child at home, here are the key assessment and reporting dates for Year 11 this academic year:

- Mid-September – Mid-November 2026: BTEC Health & Social Care Component 2 PSA and Travel and Tourism Component 2 PSA
- Thursday 15 October 2026: Year 11 Parents' Evening
- 2 November – 13 November 2026: Year 11 Trial Exams (Set 1)
- Friday 18 December 2026: End of Term Academic Progress Report sent home
- 1 March – 12 March 2027: Year 11 Trial Exams (Set 2)
- 1 March - 5 March 2027 - Food Practical Exams
- Thursday 25 March 2027: Year 11 Parents' Evening (2)
- Friday 26 March 2027: End of Term Academic Progress Report sent home
- Spring 2027: Practical & Art Examinations
- May – June 2027: Final Written GCSE & Vocational Examinations

3. Study Support & Revision Resources

We provide structured revision opportunities and resources to help students manage their workload effectively:

- Revision Resources: Students will be given time and support in Tutor to develop their own revision resources. There is a Google site with Knowledge Organisers for most
- Subject Knowledge Organisers: There is a Google site with Knowledge Organisers for most subjects. They can access this via the Head of Year Google classroom. We strongly encourage that you print the relevant Knowledge Organisers to display on walls at home for regular quizzing and discussion.

- Intervention & After-School Sessions: We are developing the structured revision and catch-up sessions and you will receive more information about this soon.

4. Post-16 Destinations, Guidance & Next Steps

Preparing students for life after Year 11 is a central priority at Carisbrooke College:

- Proven Post-16 Success: Historically, 94% of Carisbrooke College students remain in education, employment, or training post-16, which is 3 percentage points above the national average.
- Strong Academic Progression: Our students progress seamlessly onto Level 3 A-Level pathways across top regional sixth forms, including The Island VI Form, Cowes Enterprise Sixth Form, Ryde Sixth Form, Lift Ryde, St George's, and mainland options such as Barton Peveril.
- Specialist Technical & Vocational Routes: Students access leading regional technical providers aligned with key Isle of Wight growth sectors, including CECAMM for engineering, UKSA for maritime and sports studies, Platform One for performing arts, the Isle of Wight College, and HTP College.
- Direct Workplace Apprenticeships: We support students securing direct apprenticeships with prominent local employers, such as GKN Engineering and local construction firms.
- Digital Education Record Service: We are adopting the Department for Education's Education Record service, giving students secure, digital access to their verified education data directly on their personal devices to streamline post-16 applications.
- Personalised 1-to-1 Guidance: Every student receives tailored careers guidance via Unifrog and Compass+ tracking, backed by targeted senior leadership mentoring for any student deciding on their path.

5. Student Wellbeing & Exam Stress Support

While Year 11 involves rigorous academic preparation, student mental health and wellbeing remain our top priority. Our dedicated in-school pastoral team and mental health specialists deliver targeted support, including Exam Stress Workshops, to help students build resilience, manage workload, and navigate exam pressure. If you notice your child feeling overwhelmed at any point, please reach out so we can put support in place.

6. Rewards & The 'Prom Points' Scheme

To recognise sustained hard work, high attendance, and positive engagement with revision, we operate our Prom Points reward scheme. Points earned convert directly into money off Prom tickets, yearbooks, hoodies, or Amazon vouchers. Prom will take place Wednesday 23 June 2027.

7. Shaping Our Support: Upcoming Parent Survey

Following this letter, we will be issuing our short Year 11 Start of Year Parent Survey. We want to gather your feedback on how confident you feel regarding course demands, revision resources, wellbeing support, and post-16 planning so we can tailor our support effectively.

Key Pastoral Contacts

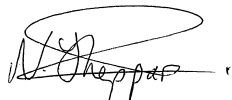
If you have any questions or require support for your child during the year, please contact our team:

- Head of Year 11: Ellen Suddell
- Mental Health & Wellbeing Support: Beth Peckham

- Exams Officer: Charlotte Turner
- Deputy Headteacher (Achievement): Paul Shoulders
- Headteacher: Natalie Sheppard

Thank you for your continued partnership as we guide our Year 11 students toward a successful year.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Sheppard', with a large, loopy flourish above the name.

Natalie Sheppard
Headteacher