

MAESTEG SCHOOL

Ffordd Dysgu
MAESTEG
Bridgend
CF34 0LQ



Ffordd Dysgu
MAESTEG
Pen-y-Bont ar Ogwr
CF34 0LQ

Tel: [01656] 815950 Fax: [01656] 815954

Ffon: [01656] 815950 Ffacs: [01656] 15954

E-mail / E-bost: maestegschool.maesteg@bridgend.gov.uk

Website / Gwefan: www.maestegcs.bridgend.sch.uk

Headteacher / Pennaeth: *H. Jones B.A. (Hons) N.P.Q.H.*

Dear parent of a Year 11 Student

As we are entering the final stage of GCSE preparation before the exam season begins, we wanted to take the opportunity to write to you one last time. Since we value the quality of our teamwork so much – be this at the classroom level, with students supporting each other with the revision of topics or at the Senior Leadership level – we decided that it would be appropriate for you to hear from various colleagues at Maesteg School at this crucial moment in your child's education:

Mrs H Jones - Headteacher

As you are by now no doubt well aware, GCSE exam season is upon us! Your child may well be feeling the pressure and it is up to school staff and parents to work together to ensure that they feel supported, confident and ready to succeed during this challenging period.

Our new school motto is 'Motivated to Strive' and it is fair to say that the vast majority of our year 11 students have illustrated this by working very hard over the last year. This is the final leg of the journey and, if they continue to learn at home, plan, prepare and organise themselves effectively, their efforts will be rewarded.

I look forward to celebrating their successes with them on Results Day on Thursday 25th August. Should you or your child require further help, advice or support, please do not hesitate to contact us at the school. You may find the Year 11 page on our new school website helpful in the first instance (details are given at the end of this letter).

I have every faith that our year 11 students will strive to achieve their very best and will remember the line, 'Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard.'

We wish you the very best of luck - All your efforts will be worth it in the end. We believe in you!

Mrs T Chown-Radmore – Head of Year 11

It has been a privilege and pleasure to be Head of Year 11 this year. It has been a tough journey, but a rewarding one and I am delighted to have had such fantastic support from you all. I am looking forward to Results Day on August 25 and celebrating your child's deserved success.

Motivated to Strive / Ysgogi i Ymdrechu



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Dr D Duddridge – Deputy Headteacher

It has been an absolute privilege this year to be working so closely with each one of our Year 11s to raise their aspirations and achievements. Each of them will no doubt be familiar with the message I am constantly expressing: the importance of striving to achieve at least 5 GCSEs or equivalent, including English and Maths, at grades A*-C. This is ultimately about ensuring that each of our students have choices in life: in terms of College and University courses and Career Pathways. In the increasingly competitive world in which we live, I want each of our students to have the pleasure of waving a piece of paper around on Results Day which acts as a key to the next exciting stage of their life.

The Head has already mentioned that as a school we have in place a huge amount of support in the forthcoming weeks. I would urge each of our Year 11 students to read carefully the Revision timetable which we have put together (details on the website). Each session has been scheduled to be as close to the actual exam as possible and will give subject experts the chance to remind their students of all the small things they can do in the exam which may make a significant difference to their final grade. We are blessed with having hugely talented and experienced colleagues at Maesteg School and now is the time for each student to 'buy in' completely to the guidance they offer.

I wish each and every one of our Year 11 students all the very best for the exams and look forward to us improving on last year's results – the school's best ever!

Miss J Elias – Assistant Headteacher

This is a pivotal time in the lives of each of our students' lives and I would like to take this opportunity to wish each of them every success in their forthcoming exams and in their selection of the right pathway for next year.

One of my responsibilities as an Assistant Headteacher at Maesteg School is overseeing the running of the Sixth Form and ensuring a rich and varied curriculum is available for all. One particularly rewarding aspect of my job is when I see so many students return to school to study courses at post 16 enjoying the benefits of working with supportive staff, who know them well, and developing into confident young adults ready at age 18 to progress to the work place or Higher Education.

To each of our students: Good luck with all of your exams; I look forward to sharing your success with you on Thursday, 25th August and seeing you in the Sixth Form in September.

Mrs T Hill – Assistant Headteacher

I would just like to wish each of our students the best of luck for their exams. It's been an honour and privilege to work with them all during their five years here and especially this year.

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This is it now, this is the final hurdle, the last push to get to the summit. They have all worked so hard to get here. Some of them will have already secured grades which is a huge achievement in itself. There are only a couple of weeks of hard work left.

While they need to keep up this huge effort, they also need to look after themselves. Remember when they are revising they should take regular breaks and drink lots of water. They need to remember to relax, as relaxation actually helps them revise. Give themselves time, lots of time to prepare for the exams.

The important thing is that each of our students do their best whatever that best is. They shouldn't have any regrets about the revision they could have done but rather try to do all they can to feel prepared for the exam.

Please remind your child that we want to hear all about how they feel about the exams. They should look out for their teachers, telling them how they feel no matter if it is good or bad. We're here to help them through it all!

I can't wait to see all the students on Results' Day getting the fantastic grades they deserve!

Mr N Jones – Assistant Headteacher

At Maesteg, we have continually stressed the importance of good attendance throughout the five years that your child has attended the school. There is a well proven and inextricable link between good attendance and good achievement and this link remains right up until your child completes their final examination. It is for this reason, that we stress the importance of your child attending all lessons and revision sessions that the school organises for your child, before and during the examinations.

We sincerely believe that the best place for your child to revise is in school so that they are able to fully utilise the experience and expertise of their teacher. Your child's teacher will know their students on an individual level and in many cases, will tailor revision to suit individual students. We also feel that we are best placed to offer any pastoral support that your child may need during this extremely stressful period. Finally we feel it is important to inform you that **all** schools are legally unable to grant study leave to students at any time during the examination period. This means that any absence that occurs up until the last Friday in May will be recorded on your child's attendance record.

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Mrs A Matthews – Assistant Headteacher

As Assistant Headteacher in charge of Teaching and Learning for the school, it has become increasingly clear to me that one of the main – if not the most important – aspect of effective learning is effort. Time and time again I have delivered this message to our Year 11 students in Assemblies; conversations in the corridor; and revision sessions. Never before has this piece of advice been more crucial. The effort which each of our Year 11s choose to put in to their preparation for the forthcoming exam can genuinely make the difference. Each Year 11 should now ensure that they have organised themselves through the construction of a revision timetable and through using the revision sessions and clubs we are running to go the extra mile in terms of their effort. I wish each of our Year 11 students all the very best in the forthcoming exams.

We would also like to take this opportunity to share with you details of the new website for the school. Over the next few weeks, more and more information about the school and its direction will be posted on this site. We wanted, however, to prioritise material to further support your child at this busy time. On the Year 11 section of the site, you will find:

- An overview of the Revision and Support opportunities in place for your child over the coming weeks;
- A list of key people involved in supporting your child and their contact details;
- A timetable of events (including Breakfast sessions; Booster lessons; and After-school lessons) which will provide further personalised guidance to your students for the various exams they will be sitting;
- Links to revision sites for each subject put together by the various teachers.

The school website has remained the same: www.maestegcs.bridgend.sch.uk. We would strongly encourage you to use the Year 11 aspect of this site in the forthcoming weeks to help plan the way in which your child can benefit from the opportunities for support and revision in place.

Finally, we would like to extend our thanks for your continued support over the last five years and look forward to celebrating your child's successes on Thursday 25th August

Yours faithfully,

Mrs H Jones, Mrs Chown-Radmore, Dr Duddridge, Ms Elias, Mrs Hill, Mr Jones & Mrs Matthews

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