



"An Academy to be Proud of"

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## ***Stepping up into Year 11***

23<sup>rd</sup> June 2026

Dear parent/carer,

As our Year 10 students approach the end of the academic year, we are officially beginning their transition into their final, most crucial phase of secondary education. Year 11 represents a significant milestone, and in our assembly this week, we have challenged students to reflect deeply on the daily choices that define a true Year 11 role model. To reflect this maturity, students have the opportunity to transition from their Year 10 green, black & white-striped tie to the highly prestigious, gold-striped Year 11 tie. Students will earn this Year 11 tie and as such, we as a school will provide it for them, meaning you will not need to purchase one and they will not be available to purchase from Whittakers school wear as normal.

To officially earn their Year 11 tie, students must complete a simple, rigorous 3-Week Challenge starting immediately and running until Tuesday 14.07.26. They must prove they are ready to step up by meeting four non-negotiable standards of excellence over a 3-week period (15-school days). These non-negotiables are as follows:

- **95% Attendance or Above** – Students cannot achieve their full potential if they are not in the building. Excellent daily attendance is required, including during work experience.
- **Zero Behaviour Points** – We expect our Year 11s to lead by example. This means showing absolute respect in the classroom, in the corridors, and in the local community.
- **Zero Uniform Points** – Maintaining high standards by wearing the official Armfield Academy uniform correctly and with pride every single day.
- **Zero Late Marks** – Punctuality is an essential life skill. Students must arrive at school on time and transition punctually to all lessons.

The students who have already met these non-negotiable standards will earn their Y11 tie straight away. Please note that earning the Year 11 Gold Tie is also directly linked to crucial milestone privileges later in the year such as being invited to the highly anticipated Year 11 Prom – only students who have successfully earned their gold tie will be eligible for the end of year Prom. Once a student earns their Year 11 gold tie, they must then consistently maintain these standards to keep it. If a tie is removed from a student, they will have to re-earn it in the next 3-week cycle.

We look forward to celebrating your child's success as they officially secure their Year 11 status. If you have any questions regarding this stepping-up process, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Form Tutor or Phase Lead in the first instance

Yours sincerely,

Dr J Hutchinson – Deputy Headteacher

