



29/03/2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the final run into exams, it is timely that we take stock of how we can collectively support our young people to ensure that they get the most they can from their examinations.

As I write this letter, there are a large number of students taking advantage of valuable enrichment opportunities after school; putting final touches to controlled assessments and are fully into the swing of revision. Their efforts as a year group need to be recognised and they deserve a well earned break.

Whilst students need to recharge their energies, the Easter break is an important time for them to reflect on what they need to focus on. By now all students should be well into their own revision programme. PSHE sessions between now and the exams are focussed on revision techniques and skills and all students have been issued with a revision booklet giving them advice and ideas about how to best revise. Furthermore all students have been issued with a personal login to a website called 'Get Revising'. Through this website, students can plan their revision and access revision materials and past papers for each of their courses.

Please take a few moment to look at the parent's guide to supporting revision. In a nutshell it is no more complicated than engaging with their revision; asking them to show you where they are up to, to explain a topic to you or simply explain how they are revising. If they struggle to tell you, this may indicate that they are not as advanced in their revision as we would like and you should focus your efforts in identifying with your child how and when they are going to get themselves up to speed.

The key to a student's revision is starting early and keeping it manageable and interesting. Whilst reading notes will benefit a small number of students, for most this is not sufficient. They should be encouraged to engage with their notes and classwork in a variety of ways to give them opportunities to look at their notes differently.

When we surveyed Y11 after their mocks, the most common thing students said they would do differently this summer is start their revision early with attending staff-led sessions after school coming a close second.

As we have done for the last 3 years, students will follow a timetable throughout their exams. As more of their exams are completed, this timetable will become more and more personalised. The sessions are a combination of taught sessions and revision workshops.

This approach is in line with the Department of Education's expectations around study leave, but much more importantly is proven to have a positive impact on student outcomes for students of all abilities. **Last year the students with the greatest attendance during those sessions gained 7% more A*-A grades and 5% more A*-C grades compared to the rest of the year group.**

In the run up to the exams we are running relaxation/mediation type sessions for Y11 students. Please encourage your son/daughter to sign up to these if you feel it would be beneficial. Students have also been told that between now and the completion of the exams, the library is now a silent study area. ***If you feel you would like to discuss further your child's needs during their exams, please do not hesitate to contact their form tutor or pastoral leader in the first instance.***

Yours sincerely

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