

05th May 2023

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Dear Year 11 parent/carer,

Year 11 have matured significantly over the last two years, and it has been a pleasure to work with them. Your continued support of your child and collaboration with the school are even more important in these last few weeks before the exams.

As we approach the last few weeks of year 11 lessons, I wanted to write home to remind you of our basic expectations.

Punctuality

Year 11 should arrive at school at 8.30 am every morning ready for registration. This is an opportunity for tutors to check on the well-being of their tutees and offer advice and support to them in preparation for their GCSE exams.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all their timetabled lessons. Teachers are either finishing course content or completing structured revision activities with students. Absence from these lessons will significantly hamper the ability of students to reflect on their areas to target independently for revision and will limit the opportunity teachers have to fill gaps in their knowledge.

Exam Timetable

All students have been issued with an individual exam timetable and exam revision booklet. Please look at these documents with your child and discuss how you will support them around the exam period.

Students have been provided with detailed feedback for each subject, indicating the areas of study which now need to be prioritised for additional study and revision. Teachers will be using lesson time to address key areas for focus.

Intervention Timetable

Students have been given an intervention timetable which outlines the additional support they will receive. The supervised study area in the library will continue to be open daily until 5pm.

May Half Term Revision

A selection of revision sessions is planned for the May Half-term holiday (further details to follow).

Exam Support

Whilst I know this can be a stressful time for our young people, having a planned and well thought-through approach to their revision will help manage nerves and worries as the final exams approach. We have sourced some of the useful websites for you and your child below and attached an extract from the Good Schools Guide on how parents can support their child through examinations.

If you have any questions or queries, please contact me or a member of the year 11 team.

Yours faithfully,

RAskoolum

Roy Askoolum

Deputy Headteacher

Student revision support:	
Bbc.co.uk website:	http://www.bbc.co.uk/education
Revision world:	http://revisionworld.com
Revision advice:	
Five revision myths demolished:	https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/revision/advice/five-revision-mythsdemolished
How to Revise Scientifically Proven Revision Techniques:	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xTkpr5bkzPw
How to revise for your GCSEs:	https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/gcse/advice/how-to-revise-for-yourgcse
Head teachers give their top tips for revision season:	https://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationadvice/11499039/Head-teachers-give-their-top-tips-forrevision-season.html
General advice for parents/teenagers:	
Helping your child through exams:	http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/parents/helping_with_exams/
	https://www.familylives.org.uk/
	https://kooth.com/
	https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/school-college-and-work/school-college/preparing-exams/
Exam boards:	

AQA:	https://www.aqa.org.uk/
Edexcel:	https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/home.html
OCR:	https://www.ocr.org.uk/
WJEC:	https://www.wjec.co.uk/
Student revision support:	
Bbc.co.uk	http://www.bbc.co.uk/education
Revision world	http://revisionworld.com
Parent support	
Revision World:	https://revisionworld.com/a2-level-level-revision/exam-tips-and-advice/helpful-hints-parents

Top ten tips for parents: revision (From The Goodschoolsguide)

1. Encourage your child to make a revision timetable – and stick to it.
2. Make sure your child has a quiet space to work, with no distractions.
3. Help to find the method of learning and retaining information that works best for them. It could be reading and making notes, using flash cards or Post-it notes, looking at video clips, playing back recordings of their own voice, mind mapping or perhaps a mixture of these.
4. Check the exam specifications. All exam boards publish these, along with practice papers and mark schemes too.
5. Search out revision apps and online resources – such as [BBC Bitesize](#) and [Gojimo](#) – to clarify areas your child feels less confident about. Teenagers sometimes concentrate on their best subjects and leave their weaker ones till the end but it is a good idea to tackle weak areas early on.
6. Be around as much as possible. You don't have to be at their side 24/7 but children like parents taking an interest in their revision (but not taking over).
7. Keep the kitchen cupboard stocked with delicious food. When the going gets tough children really appreciate a cup of tea, a plate of biscuits or their favourite meal.

8. Encourage them to break revision into manageable chunks and to take regular breaks in between revision sessions. It's far more effective to do 30 minutes of successful revision – rather than plough on for hours on end and not get anywhere. This is backed up by research by academics at the University of Sheffield who found that learning is more effective when spread out over stretches of time.
9. Exercise, fresh air, healthy food and lots of sleep are crucial.
10. Most important of all, help your child to keep everything in perspective. Remind them that the better they prepare and the more confident they feel in their subject knowledge the less stressed they will feel when the exams start. But by the end of June the exams will be over and it will be the start of the long summer holidays.