

13th February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 11,

Believe it or not but at the time of writing there are only 43 days until the very first GCSE exam! Each week we have the countdown displayed in our Year 11 assembly and it would be helpful if parents could remind their child of how close they now are to their real exams (and that revision should have started!).

Below is our February half term revision programme which is available to any Year 11 students completing these courses. I really must thank our staff in advance for offering to come in during their holiday to support Year 11 and I do hope Year 11 take up this fantastic opportunity for additional support. Some of the sessions are vital for those who may need extra support with coursework and teachers have emailed home personal invites to those who need it. Please take a look at the subjects your child has and encourage them to attend.

February Half-term revision

Monday 19 th	Tuesday 20 th	Wednesday 21 st	Thursday 22 nd	Friday 23 rd
Music 9.30-3pm IMedia 9-3pm PE 9-1pm Hospitality & Catering (Tec4) 9-3pm	Music 9.30-3pm Media Studies Drama 9.30-2.30 Drama studio. Design & Technology (Tec4) 9-3pm			Art & Photography 10am-3pm

Finally, below are the messages from some of our Heads of Department. Again, please use these messages to facilitate some discussions with your child about their learning.

As always, thank you for your continued support!

Lindsay Maughan
Head of School

Geography	The week after half term students will be doing paper 2 questions in class so this should also form part of their revision plans for the mocks when they return. Encourage students to access sites such as BBC news to read some of the current news articles around subjects such as climate change, migration and development (global trade)						
RE	Ensure the topic list is used to help direct revision. No questions should be left blank, particularly 12 mark questions, they've done a lot of practice to understand the standard. Extra support has been given on the Islam paper, this can be a target area for all to improve and boost grades as students should be more confident. Everything is on POD, nobody should have trouble revising, following up on any missed lessons or topics.						
Maths	In preparation for the summer exams, students have been completing half of an exam paper every week under test conditions and another paper for homework. These practice papers help students gain confidence with regular recall of key facts and application of knowledge to multi-skill questions. It has been really impressive to see the regular attendance to after school revision and making use of the <u>Tuesday lunch time drop-in sessions</u> . Please encourage your child to attend Students are also being encouraged to complete independent revision using SPARX maths with the 100Days of Sparx competition from Monday 22 January to Wednesday 1 st May.						
French / Spanish	<p>Year 11 pupils will complete a mock speaking exam for French / Spanish after half term between 26-29th February. Times have been posted on Teams and are on classroom doors.</p> <p>The exam has 3 sections and is marked out of 60:</p> <table><tr><td>Role Play</td><td>Photocard</td><td>General Conversation</td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>15</td><td>30</td></tr></table> <p>Pupils are given 12 minutes to prepare the role play and photocard and they may bring these notes into the exam. The general conversation lasts 3-5 minutes for foundation tier and 5-7 minutes for higher tier. Pupils will be asked questions on a range of topics and must be able to use past, present and future tenses. Pupils have been preparing answers to these questions and have a booklet to support their practice.</p> <p>Speaking tests can be nerve wracking for pupils. It is essential that pupils practise speaking aloud as this will improve their pronunciation, their confidence and their overall responses. You could support your child by asking them to answer the questions out loud – even if you ask the question in English!</p> <p>Supporting resources can be found on Student Pod. Pupils will also complete exams in listening, reading and writing.</p> <p>The listening and reading exams will take place on Friday 1st March. Following feedback from parents and pupils, these will take place in classrooms to improve the sound quality for pupils."</p>	Role Play	Photocard	General Conversation	15	15	30
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