

January 2020

Dear parents/carers,

As we move into the same calendar year as the GCSE examinations we want to remind you of the support on offer in this very important year.

On Wednesday 8th January Year 11 students received their Mock Results certificate, during a session designed to replicate results day in the summer. Students received the grades that their teachers have estimated they might achieve, given their work to date in class, marking of mock exam papers and their attitude to learning. Please, therefore, talk with your son/daughter about their 'mock results'. Should you wish to discuss subject specific issues, please note that Year 11 Progress Evening will be taking place on Thursday 23rd January.

Whatever the outcome from the mock results, there is still time to make significant gains if the grades suggested are lower than those hoped for or indeed needed to access courses post-16. Below is an outline of the revision support on offer on a week to week basis from subject areas.

Day	Lunchtime drop-in 12:30 – 13:00	After School 3:10-4:10	
Monday	Science, Maths	Btec Sport (week A)	
Tuesday		English	English
Wednesday		Spanish	Spanish, Btec Sport
Thursday		History, Btec Sport	
Friday		Drama	

We know that this can be a stressful time for families and because of this the school website offers advice and guidance on how to support you in supporting your child, on ways to revise and ways to cope with exam stress and anxiety. There is a separate document with further information on all these areas attached.

Pupils often say that they have not got any homework. This is not true. Revision is an ongoing 'homework' that some pupils fail to realise or simply ignore. All departments will have shared revision tasks by February half term. These tasks will run up to the final exams. Many subjects have done so already and many more tasks will arrive over time. Please check GO 4 Schools to see what is already there.

Pupils must not wait to be directed towards revision, it should already be underway; revision is an open-ended task. Revision is best served in small but regular chunks, increasing in frequency and length as we get closer to the exam season. A revision timetable is a sensible way forward, support on this is attached as an appendix. The length of time spent revising depends on all sorts of factors, so it is difficult to put a figure on it in a letter to all. That said, anything less than an hour per week per subject on top of any set revision/homework is

insufficient at this stage. This time needs to increase as we get into February, March and beyond. Time spent revising now is worth double that time spent closer to the exam, so please encourage your son/daughter to bank the revision hours as soon as possible and remember to reward them for doing so.

As a parent/carer your influence is huge and you do not need to be an expert on the subjects to help your child to succeed. Helping your child to use their time wisely and supporting them to use the resources available from school and to seize the opportunities that they are presented with can be the difference between success and failure, getting on to the desired course or not, gaining a Grade 3 or Grade 5 (getting into further or higher education or not).

Please do not hesitate to get in contact with the school if you need help and support in preparing your child for the GCSE exams. The appendix to this letter gives some information that you should find useful.

Yours sincerely

Dr Wood
Deputy
Headteacher

Mrs Bowler
Maths

Mrs Davis
English

Mr Bird
Science

Miss Sollars
Humanities

Mrs Proffitt
MFL

Mr Wise
Performing Arts

Mr Norman
DT & Art