

18 October 2023

Dear Parent / Carer

GCSE Revision Skills evening, Mon 30 October 2023, 6pm

Thank you for your support of your child's academic progress this half term. We have been impressed by the efforts of the year group since term began in September. It has been a busy few weeks with masterclasses in tutor time, internal exams, Sixth Form taster day and a revision skills workshop. To share revision techniques with you, so that you can support your son/daughter through the exam period coming up, we invite parents and students to a GCSE Revision Skills Evening in College on Monday 30 October, from 6-7pm. Please note this is the first day back after half-term week.

The students will sit internal practice exams in all their GCSE subjects after half term. These exams will run from Monday 6 November until early December. It is very important that students revise for these exams and do their absolute best in them. This exam period will be demanding as it is designed to mirror the actual summer exams schedule. There will often be two exams in different subjects on one day for example. It is vital to start revision now in an organised fashion, so that students feel calm and well prepared. Rather than cramming in revision at the last minute, students be revising methodically at half-term before these internal exams begin.

Recent tutor time sessions have focused on planning ahead. Students have been asked to plan in time to rest, socialise and revise over half term week. Revision should fit around family life and seeing friends etc, which is why it is vital to plan for next week. Your child should know their logins for Seneca, Sparx and Activelearn etc. Year 11 students should aim to fit in ten to fifteen hours of study over the nine days off school, doing paper-based and online study, set by their teachers. Revision tasks and individual exam timetables are on Arbor. Do let us know if you need assistance with creating a parent's login for Arbor, so you can help keep your child on track.

Paper planning sheets for half term have been given to students to fill in. Tutors will check these. Please ask your son/daughter to show you their sheet so you can support them with sticking to their plans. Regular homework and revision outside of College will boost your child's grades by at least one grade per subject, if not more. It is essential for students to establish good routines and work habits to stick to all year.

This week in assembly we will be congratulating many students on a great start to Year 11. Students are awarded positive points on Arbor for all sorts of good efforts, including detailed revision plans, attending internal or external events about Sixth Form Options and/or the GCSE Revision Evening. As you know these positive points feed through to our Points for Prom Totaliser. We will share good news about these scores too.

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Year 11 students have completed assessed work in all their subjects this half-term. Teachers have marked students' work and new GCSE grades in each subject have therefore been generated. These will soon be published in new progress reports. These new grades allow us to create tutor groups for the next half term to address gaps in knowledge or skills. We will assign students to their new groups over the next week and students may return to different masterclasses with a new tutor for the weeks leading up to Christmas. We have been impressed with students' hard work in these extra sessions in tutor time and we feel sure we will see strong improvements in student performance in the subjects selected for each student in tutor time.

We know that some students tend to over-work or worry too much about their schoolwork. Do reassure your child that we are not expecting students to revise all the time! Everybody needs to recharge their batteries and relax over the half term week. This is why planning the time in advance is vital for balancing study and relaxation. Navigating Year 11 with our children is a tough job, as I know from experience, and we are very grateful for parents' support through a challenging year. I look forward to seeing you again soon on Monday 30 October.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Fiona Lunskey

Assistant Principal: Raising Standards