

18 March 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

Now that the final GCSE exams are in sight for Year 11 students, I am writing to you to enclose some advice and help for students about revision preparation for GCSE exams.

Colleagues in school have been looking at the impact of two techniques called 'spaced learning' and 'interleaving' as useful strategies for aiding the memory. This involves learning material in short bursts, followed by short periods of relaxation, and repeating the learning of chunks of material so that they become part of the working memory. We are using elements of this approach in after school 'Pomodoro' revision sessions, and encourage students to follow this method as they work independently over the Easter holidays. To help with this, in the attached booklet you will find a series of activities and tasks which each subject recommends students should carry out as part of their spaced learning and interleaving of revision activities. Students should already have this material from individual teachers, but we thought that parents and carers would find it helpful to have an overview from each subject, so that you have an idea about what your child should be doing to structure their revision each day.


Each subject has given details of at least six weeks' worth of revision activities in the booklet, with some providing additional weeks where they have already given details of these to students in advance, or where their exam comes towards the end of the exam series.

Some subjects will be inviting a number of students in to work on specific skills during the holiday; you will hear from these subjects individually. At home, we recommend that students use the attached booklet and other resources from each subject to help them to plan their revision, covering a number of subjects and topics each day, with breaks in between. At the back of the booklet is a list of online resources which are particularly recommended by different subject areas. I would like to draw your attention to 'Seneca' in particular, which a number of students this year and last year report finding very useful.

After the Easter break, there will be a number of practical exams in some subjects, with written papers beginning from Monday 13 May 2019. Lessons will run in school between and through exams up until the end of Friday 24 May 2019. After this date, we will offer supervised revision in school to students who wish to attend between exams, as well as masterclasses and briefings in subjects before the exams. An assembly will be held to celebrate the end of Year 11, and we will confirm details of this in due course.

I hope that the period of revision and preparation for exams goes smoothly: we encourage students to work smartly, prepare thoroughly, with time for rest and relaxation important as well.

Yours faithfully



Mrs M Townsend  
Assistant Headteacher, KS4