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Dear parents/carers and Year 11 students

I wanted to share some important updates about the summer exam series and useful resources to help support your child with purposeful revision over the Easter break and during the run up to the exams starting.

How much work is enough?

This is a question we're often asked as teens are sometimes reluctant to do any work, overwhelmed by the amount they feel they need to learn or reluctant to spend time away from more enjoyable pursuits. On the other hand, some of our students become unhealthily obsessed with working non-stop which is just as unhelpful. If you feel your child is at risk of falling into the latter category, please do contact their tutor and access our mental health and wellbeing resources on our website [here](#).

We know the run up to GCSEs can be a fraught time for students and their families and I'm experiencing it for the first time as a parent of a child in Year 11 this year too. We urge you to sit with your teenager and help them schedule a reasonable revision timetable for them, using a little and often approach. 3 x 20 mins sessions with 5-minute breaks in between is proven to be more useful than slogging over a desk for an hour. During tutor time and in assemblies students have all been shown how to do this, but may need your guidance to keep them on track.

What should they do?

Every subject has set up revision materials for students, usually on google classroom or class charts. Below are links to useful materials from the leaders of our compulsory and/or most well subscribed subjects. Please have a look at the very specific guidance your children have already received, often including links to useful online learning platforms which support their independent study.

English

Geography

History

Maths

Science

Easter holiday revision sessions

Over the Easter holiday some of our vocational subjects are running additional sessions, focused on coursework catch up. Please see details [here](#).



Working in partnership with



For the four weeks after Easter before exams start, the 4 o'clock club after school sessions will run as normal. These are predominantly for the subjects listed above but additional class teachers of option subjects will let your child know if they are running extra sessions.

Summer Exam Series and study leave

Whilst some subjects have earlier non-exam based assessments happening now and over the next five teaching weeks, the main exams start in earnest just after the May bank holiday with French GCSE on 7 May.

This is an earlier start than has been typical for GCSEs and they extend on for longer, with some of the big core subject exams after the final half term holiday.

Students will be going on study leave from the end of May. This means the last compulsory day of full attendance will be **Friday 24 May**.

In the run up to half term, students will either be in exams, booster sessions for upcoming exams or in normal classes. After half term they will need to attend only for exams and must be here **before 8.30am for a morning exam and 12.30pm for an afternoon exam**.

Booster sessions

We will continue to run optional booster sessions during those final weeks and, in order to organise sufficient staffing, we need you to **sign up [here](#)** to those sessions your child will attend. Sign-ups need to happen by Friday 12 April please.

Exam timetables

Students will all have been given paper copies of their individual exam timetables to bring home this week. Please check that your child has received this. This will show dates of all set exams. Those for vocational subjects, such as art and textiles, are on dates agreed by us rather than exam boards, so students have already been made aware of those. There are a handful of clashing exams, the specific details of how they will run will be shared with parents and students after Easter. They will do all exams on that same day and be kept away from all communication with others during the periods between exams.

Please do get in touch after Easter if you have queries or concerns about your child and how we can support them.

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Yours faithfully



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