



October 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

First and foremost, welcome back to a new academic year! We hope you all had a restful and enjoyable summer break. We would also like to extend our warm congratulations on the GCSE results achieved in Year 9 and Year 10. Two GCSEs are already in the bag, which is a fantastic start!

Upcoming Mock Exams for Year 11

It's hard to believe, but it's that time of the year again. Mock exams for Year 11 will commence on the 13th of November and will run for two weeks. These are not simply practise runs; they are a critical part of our assessment strategy. The grades achieved will serve as the predicted grades we send to sixth forms and colleges. An outline of the two weeks is outlined below.

Revision Techniques

As many of my former History and Citizenship students know, I am a huge proponent of the "20-20-20" revision method. This entails three 20-minute focused study sessions in an evening (20 minutes per subject). Below I have given example segments from several subjects, as follows:

- First 5 minutes:
 - Recall from a self-made quiz from the last time they revised.
 - A 15 question quiz on the themes in Animal Farm?
- Next 5 minutes:
 - Mind mapping what they know about a specific topic within a subject.
 - What do the Milgram and Stanford experiments show about obedience?
- Next 5 minutes:
 - Supplementing this mind map in a different colour pen from resources.
 - Taking a Biology textbook and labelling the role and internal structure of the heart
- Final 5 minutes:
 - Creating quiz questions from the topic or answering a GCSE style question.
 - Use a mobile app such as *My Past Papers* to access papers and try a specific question

This simple but consistent structure is manageable and efficient. It will add up to hours of quality revision over time without creating a mindset of having to study for hours on end.

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Headteacher Mrs Roberta Harrison



There are also after school revision sessions available, Tuesday (Maths), Wednesday (English) and Thursday (RS). We strongly encourage students to consult with their subject teachers or heads of department about what topics will be covered during these sessions. Effective revision is always more targeted and purposeful than merely re-reading notes.

Parents' Evening

We are also hosting a Parents' Evening on the 19th of October. This will be a valuable opportunity for you to speak with teachers and discuss how best to support your child in the lead-up to these vital exams.

There are just over 200 days before the start of the 2024 exam series. This may, for some, be rather daunting, but if we use the "20-20-20" revision method above, revising three-subjects for 20 minutes 5 times per week. This would amount to over 150 hours worth of revision between now and the start of exams. To put that into perspective AQA suggests 120 teaching hours to teach the entirety of GCSE History.

If we use time to our advantage we can build effective, positive and sustainable revision habits to aid in this final year.

Mock schedule:

*students are only taking one of these option subjects not all

Day & Date	Subject	Paper
Monday 13th (AM)	Maths	Non-Calculator
Monday 13th (PM)	Business Studies*	Units 1 & 2
Monday 13th (PM)	PE GCSE*	Paper 1
Monday 13th (PM)	Psychology*	Paper 1 A/C/D Sections only
Tuesday 14th (AM)	English Literature	Paper 1
Tuesday 14th (PM)	Entry Level Maths	Papers 1 & 2
Wednesday 15th (AM)	RS	Christianity
Wednesday 15th (PM)	Entry Level Maths	Papers 3 & 4
Thursday 16th (AM)	Biology	Paper 1
Thursday 16th (PM)	Entry Level Maths	Papers 5 & 6



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Friday 17th (AM)	Maths	Calculator
Friday 17th (PM)	Chemistry	Paper 1
Monday 20th (AM)	Maths	Calculator
Tuesday 21st (AM)	English Language	Paper 1
Tuesday 21st (PM)	Physics	Paper 1
Wednesday 22nd (AM)	Food*	Practical
Wednesday 22nd (PM)	Entry Level Maths	Papers 7 & 8
Thursday 23rd (AM)	Food*	Practical
Friday 24th (AM)	Food*	Theory

We are committed to ensuring the success of every student. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Chris O'Shea
Assistant Head - Exams & Data