

DCW/LR
3rd February 2016

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: Year 11 Student Progress Evening: Wednesday, 24th February 2016 4:30 to 6:30pm.

I am enclosing your son/daughter's appointment sheet for their final Year 11 Parents' Evening/Student Progress Evening. Please note that during the course of the day, students will have received their results from the trial exam period and had a one to one meeting with senior staff. It will be helpful if you could read through these results together, if possible, before the meetings with staff on the Evening.

We strongly urge **you and your** daughter/son to attend our **Year 11 Student Progress Evening on Wednesday, 24th February 2016** as you will have the opportunity to discuss in detail your son/daughter's trial exams and overall progress to date. It is really beneficial for students to be actively part of this process. Together you can discuss with us what they need to focus on in the coming weeks as they revise for their final exams (12 weeks left till the first exam). All students should be putting together revision timetables to help them organise their time. There are lots of examples on the internet but they don't need to be complex. There are many different revision sessions going on across school and please encourage your son/daughter to attend these where possible. A timetable of when these occur will be made available shortly.

Try to keep conversations positive and constructive, it may be motivational to reinforce that all schools and colleges have entry requirements and it is important that students make the connection that the work and effort they put in over the next 7 weeks will really help them achieve their goals next year and keep options open for them. As you are aware all students have to stay on in education until the age of at **least 17** and will have to continue to study Maths and English if they have not attained a C grade. All students this year are being given the opportunity to sit a GCSE General Studies qualification. This is another opportunity for students to attain a further valuable GCSE. The skills needed for this are a combination of those that they have already developed in subjects like English, Maths and History. Preparation for this exam will be delivered through tutorial, PSCHE or i-learning lessons and assemblies.

If you have any concerns please don't hesitate to contact your child's tutor or myself.

Yours faithfully

D Walton

Dave Walton- Head of Year 11

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Name of Student Tutor Group.....

I would like to attend / I am unable to attend.....Parent/Carer
(Please hand into main office)

DRAWING UP A REVISION TIMETABLE

Revision Timetables

Plan to revise specific topics in each subject, not everything at once. Make a clear list of all of the topics you hope to cover during the revision period, prioritise them and estimate how much time each topic will take. Plan to cover each topic several times if you can revisit each one near to the exams.

Filling in the blank timetable

Although it is extremely useful to map out a revision timetable in advance, it can become useless almost immediately if you fail to stick to it. Then it has the effect of being very bad for morale and you feel guilty every time you look at it. It can be more encouraging to build a chart recording what you have achieved each day. This will make you feel pleased, and is very motivating. Alternatively, print off additional blank copies of your timetable and be prepared to redraft it if you don't quite keep up with your original plans.

Building reviewing into the timetable every day

It is a good idea to have a 'Testing' time built into every day. This is a time when you will make sure that you do KNOW what you learnt earlier in the day (or perhaps the day before). This will strengthen the memory trace, and have the added advantage of making you talk about what you have learnt, giving you practice in expressing the facts and ideas you will have to write about in the exam. Parents, and others doing the same exam can help with this.

REVISION TECHNIQUES

- Plan for half-hour sessions or an hour at most. Any longer and it is likely that nothing more will sink in.
- Take a short break in between sessions and have a glass of water or something similar to drink.
- Have all the books you need to hand so you don't have to go off looking for information.
- Have plenty of paper in front of you and a pen or pencil in your hand.
- Ensure that each session starts by tackling the most difficult bits.
- Revising with the TV or radio on or with loud music is not a good idea but having your favourite music on in the background may help.
- Reading is not generally enough. Making brief notes in either words or pictures helps you to remember. The more you CHANGE information say from text into a picture the more memorable it will be.
- Working with a friend can be useful because it allows you to test each other and to talk about the work.
- Read one section of your notes at a time. The try putting your notes out of sight and, from memory, write down the key points on paper. Check what you have written and add in any details you missed out.

