

December 2018

Dear families

To ensure our Year 11 scholars are well prepared for the external examinations this summer, they will sit mock GCSE examinations in January. These will take place during the first two weeks back at school from Monday 7 January to Friday 18 January. All examinations will be based on past GCSE papers and scholars will sit the examinations in the rooms that will be used in the summer to give them a true experience. In order for our scholars to achieve the best possible grades, it is critical that they are revising at home. Studying independently, revising and managing a workload are key skills that your child will need to achieve exceptional outcomes and make ambitious life choices.

Research shows that scholars who study at home, by completing homework and additional revision, perform significantly better. In addition to this, they will approach their exams with confidence which is very important. Top performing state, private and international schools all expect scholars to complete, at least, 15 hours of independent work each week throughout the year and significantly more in preparation for exams.

Now that your child's final examinations are less than 6 months away, it is critical that they increase their revision time at home. In order to be successful, your child should spend, at least, 20 hours revising each week – a typical week could consist of 2 to 3 hours each weekday and 15 hours over the weekend.

It is important that scholars study over the upcoming holidays to ensure they are prepared for their examinations. Sixth forms and colleges are likely to ask scholars for their mock examination results when applying and so it is vital that the scholars work hard for this exam series so that they achieve as highly as possible.

To achieve this, your child needs a quiet space to work at home. They have been given revision timetables to support them in organising their time. Key activities that your child should be doing when revising are:

- self-quizzing – regularly testing against specific topics
- chunking revision – spending a maximum of 45 minutes on any topic (3 to 4 topics per evening)
- using members of the family to test key knowledge

To further support your child's learning there will be revision over the Christmas break on **Thursday 3 January** between **10.00am and 2.30pm**. This revision session has been designed to support your child in mathematics and Science to prepare them for their mock examinations in January.

In addition, as you are aware your child may have been invited to attend Period 8 sessions to further support and accelerate their progress. Attendance at these sessions is compulsory.

With your continued support, we are confident that your child will be extremely well prepared.

Yours faithfully

Gary Dreher
Principal

