

1 February 2023

Dear Families

Firstly, thank you to all of you who attended Year 11 Parents' Evening. It was a great opportunity for teachers to speak directly to students and their families about progress and revision priorities. We would also like to thank you for your ongoing support of your child and the Academy as we all work hard to achieve our vision: 'All students were successful at University or a real alternative and had happy and purposeful lives.'

We wanted to make you aware of some important dates coming up. The week commencing 6 February, the Creative Arts department will be running drop down days to prepare your child for their final assessment: Monday 6 February – Music, Tuesday 7 February – Photography, Wednesday 8 February – Art and Design, Thursday 9 February – Performing Arts. It is crucial that your child attends these sessions as a significant amount of work will take place over the course of the day.

The second set of mock examinations will take place from 20 February to 3 March. Your child has been given an exam timetable, which they should use to plan their revision. There will also be Spanish Speaking Assessments week commencing 6 March.

In order to support your child in preparing for these Mock Examinations, we will be running some revision sessions during the half term holidays. All of the sessions will run from 10.00am to 2.00pm. Students should bring lunch and their equipment, but do not need to wear Academy uniform. They should arrive promptly and sign in with the teacher at Main Reception.

The revision sessions running over the holidays are: Monday 13 February - PE, Performing Arts and Photography, Thursday 16 February - Science and Spanish, Friday 17 February - English, History, Religious Studies, Music, Art and Design.

Furthermore, we have already begun after school revision sessions as outlined below. Please encourage your child to take advantage of the opportunity to have additional input from subject specialists, it is very beneficial for them to attend.

- Monday – Creative Arts
- Tuesday – Spanish and PE
- Wednesday – English and Mathematics
- Thursday – Science
- Friday – History and Geography

Students will be specifically invited for some subjects, but no student will be turned away. The Learning Bubble in the LRC is also available for students to revise every day until 4.50pm.

As you are already aware, beyond the revision sessions being offered, it is also crucial that your child is doing lots of independent revision. To help your child revise, help them find a quiet space with no distractions (it's a great idea to ensure they leave their mobile phone in another room). Remind them to drink plenty of water, have regular meals and plenty of sleep. The optimum way to revise is to revise for 25 minutes and then have a break for 5 minutes.

In order to support your child with their revision, please remind them that reading revision guides and Knowledge Organisers is not the best way to revise. They need to 'shut the book' and see what they know without any prompts. They should write down what they can remember as a 'brain dump' and revisit what they did not know. Self-testing, flash cards and practice exams are also effective revision methods.

We understand that Year 11 can be a stressful time for students and their families, and we thank you for your ongoing support in ensuring your child meets their potential. Please contact the Academy if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully

K Paddy

Mrs K Paddy
Vice Principal

