

INFORMATION ON EXAM PREPARATION FOR YEAR 10 PARENTS



Dear Parent/Carer,

As you know, this time next year, your son will be sitting his GCSE exams.

Although students regularly sit subject exams and are assessed, the experience of having to prepare for such a large number of exams all at once is relatively new to them.

Therefore, to support them in this process, at the start of July, there will be Pre-Public exams for Year 10 in all the GCSE subjects that your son takes. These will be followed by Year 11 Pre-Public exams in December.

Students often underestimate how early they need to start revising and how organised they need to be. Furthermore, they do not always use the most effective revision strategies.

To help address this, the boys have already done work on study skills in the Autumn term. In January, they had a Study Skills Session delivered by an external provider. The session covered aspects of long term organisation and planning, but mainly introduced students to effective ways of revising. This was followed up by further work in Tutor periods and subjects.

You may find the following points useful to bear in mind when supporting your son in his exam preparation:

- Make sure that your son is conscious of the time scales involved in preparing for the exams. He needs to start revising now. The exam period will be from **July 2nd** to **July 13th**.
- Your son needs to plan his revision and boys often benefit from assistance with this.
- Effective revision is **active revision**. Reading through notes is not effective revision.
- The Study Skills providers who came into school promoted a range of *active* revision strategies. These strategies include making mind maps, index cards with pictorial representations and using sticky notes.
- Revision guides and revision sites such as GCSEpod are far better as a source of revision material than exercise books. A free on-line resource called **senecalearning.com** is popular with some Year 11 students.
- Some boys can become extremely stressed and the accompanying leaflet gives some information about this.

The school website contains more advice on revision and exam preparation as well as links to useful websites.

An individualised exam timetable for your son will be sent home after the Summer half term. In the mean time, he needs to focus on revising his Year 10 work. Checklists are available on the school website. If you need any further information on how best to support your son, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours faithfully

Ms R Woolf
Deputy Headteacher

