

February 2019

Dear Parents

Revision

As you are aware in December 2018 your son attended a presentation entitled “Ace your Exams” by a study skills educational company called Elevate. The feedback we received from Year 11 was that they unanimously found it helpful and supportive. All Year 11 students received a booklet which they used to make notes and complete tasks during the presentation. You may wish to note that we have put further Elevate Education revision resources on the VLE.

All subject staff are speaking to your son about revision and preparation for the exams and we would like to make you aware that your son will be working on many past paper questions in class in every subject after Easter. Staff have spoken to your son about the importance of starting revision early, so if your son is not well underway with his revision he should start now and work in earnest over the Easter holidays. There are only 7 teaching days in the Summer term before first language speaking exams begin with Spanish on 2 and 3 May and German and French orals the following week. Full study leave begins on Thursday, 9 May 2019. Holidays should be used wisely, therefore. We have included again some key advice on the most effective way to revise and prepare for exams. This is based on guidance that has proved successful with pupils in the past. We have also attached a revision planner to help your son create a revision programme if he has not already done so.

The school recommends approximately 50 hours of work over the Easter holidays. By creating a revision timetable that replicates the school day (eight 40-minute revision slots) it will be possible for boys to reach that recommended figure by working on 10 of the 17 days: a combination of rest and revision is, therefore, both possible and advisable.

Finally, while your son will be working on past papers in lessons after the holidays, we would encourage him to work on past exam papers as soon as possible and over the Easter holidays. Elevate Education and staff in school have outlined the advantages of initially completing past papers by using textbooks and no time restrictions and working up to doing past papers without textbook support and under timed conditions. I know that your son’s subject staff will be happy to support him with past papers and discuss any issues that have arisen from doing such work at home.

We wish your son every success in his preparations for the GCSEs and for the exams themselves.

Yours faithfully,

D P Gallagher
Head of Year 11