



16 October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Year 11 Exam Preparation 2020-21 - Practice for Progress Support Programme

I am writing to inform you of the arrangements for year 11 exam preparation as we begin our build up to the first KAP exams of the year. In order to support the students in their preparation we have split the KAP exams into core and options subjects, the intention being to provide more time for thorough revisiting of previous learning and to place equal importance on all of the subjects. It is increasingly the national expectation that students achieve eight 'good GCSE passes'.

The first of our key dates is **Thursday 12th November**. This is when the mocks or KAP exams as we call them, will take place for the option subjects (a separate timetable was given out on Thursday). The Core subjects will follow the option KAPs in the week beginning **7th December**.

The importance of well-planned, regular and sustained re-learning cannot be over stated. It is true that the quality and quantity of revisiting previous content is likely to increase as the year progresses and that by the spring term most students will have embarked on a well-planned programme of revision. However, the most common mistake students make is not preparing thoroughly enough for their first set of KAPs. Good habits take time to develop. To support each and every student with this Year 11 have been introduced to some methods, which are proven to support the development of memory and recall. We are currently focussing on:

1. Blank page retrieval. <https://tinyurl.com/blankpageretrieval> (2mins 25)
2. Knowledge Organisers. (This will be shared next week)

There is a video to accompany each of these strategies (link attached) and we are encouraging every Year11 student to use these strategies day in day out, week in week out, throughout the year and NOT just in the period before the KAPs.

Video link for Parents: <https://youtu.be/1N2M3suxRJA>

We would ask that parents/carers take an active interest in the preparation plans students are making in the coming weeks. That you support them by asking a few questions and expect to see the evidence of the following;

- Have you made a timetable that states when you will revisit each topic (not just the subject)?
- Do you have the revision materials for each subject that you can show me?
- Please also ask to see your child's KAP planner, ask to see how it is organised.
- Ask to see examples of the strategies above – perhaps watch the videos together!
- Encourage the use of shared spaces around the home for the sticking of post-it notes and mind maps.
- Ask that revision cards be brought to the dinner table so that a quick quiz can be had!

At the start of the Spring Term Year 11 will experience a mock "Results Day" on Monday 11th January followed by Year 11 Parents Evening on 14th January (details to follow). The second round of KAPs then begins with Option KAP 2 starting on Thursday 4th February and Core KAP2 on 15th March.

We are generally very pleased with the way Year 11 have started the term and we hope they will prepare thoroughly for the option KAPs in order to make the most of the opportunity. The end of the school year is still a little uncertain but now we have been given exam dates we will endeavour to communicate our plans in the not too distant future. In the meantime, we shall encourage all of our students to remain calm, organised and focused on their learning and to start using the strategies we have put in place.

Thank you for your continuing support – it really does make all the difference.

Yours faithfully.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Day', followed by a period. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mr Day
Deputy Headteacher