



6th January 2025

Dear Parents,

Year 11 Final Countdown

Your child only has 14 school weeks until the beginning of the formal GCSE examination period on Tuesday 6th May. They should now be working (at school and at home) with a real sense of urgency and determination to reach the highest possible grades in all their subjects. By now, they should be working each night to complete homework and revision either online using apps such as Sparx, Seneca, BBC Bitesize etc. A structured revision programme using a timetable of subjects and topics is vital as it will help them to plan for success, ensuring that they cover key topics in each subject area.

In four weeks, your child will undertake their final set of mock examinations which will be their last chance to practice prior to the real exams and therefore this opportunity should be used wisely. The mock exam fortnight will begin on Monday 3rd and end on Friday 14th February and students are expected to be fully equipped with at least two black pens, pencil, ruler, eraser, and a scientific calculator (when required) in a clear pencil case. We expect all students to take the exams seriously with mature behaviour that fully meets the exam regulations, so students are able to gauge their current academic progress and more importantly, determine next steps for revision in readiness for the GCSEs beginning.

This morning, I delivered an assembly to Year 11 students to outline the importance of the final weeks of their education and the positive difference that can be made in this time with a positive attitude and self-motivation. Excellent attendance and punctuality to school, lessons and intervention sessions are all critical over the next few weeks and therefore eating well and plenty of sleep and exercise are also vital elements to maintain good personal well-being.

Following on from the mock exams, we will hold a mock exam results assembly with students on Thursday 13th March so they are able to experience what it will feel like on results day in August. In addition, we will hold a further Year 11 parents evening on Thursday 13th March 4-7pm as a final opportunity for parents/carers and students to speak with their subject teachers before the GCSEs begin. Advice given on this evening will support in your child's final preparation for their GCSEs.

Our five top tips for parents/carers to support their child in good habits for revision are;

1. **Set a routine** by encouraging your child to establish consistent daily schedule that balances revision with breaks to avoid burnout.
2. **Create a study space.** Help them to find a quiet, organised area for studying, free from distractions like mobile phones and gaming consoles.
3. **Be involved.** Ask about their subjects, understand what they find challenging and celebrate their progress.
4. **Promote wellbeing.** Remind them to take regular breaks, eat nutritious meals and get enough sleep to stay focused and energised.



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5. **Utilise school resources** by encouraging your child to attend revision sessions or seek help from teachers if needed.

Together we can support your child to achieve the GCSE results that fully reflect their academic potential but the key to success is hard work now. We wish every student the very best in their forthcoming mock exams and please do not hesitate to contact us if required.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Jayne Scattergood
Headteacher

