

8th April 2022

Dear Parent / Carer,

Year 11 Easter Revision and 'The Final Push'

Summer exams are now very close, and I am delighted to see so many Year 11 students engaged in revision activities around the school - both after school and during lunch times. The final push for those prized grades is now upon us, and I am writing to you so that we are all clear on how we can support these talented young people through the coming months.

Mock Results Day and Exams Updates

Today, students will have received their mock results in the same room that they will receive their real results this summer. Whether those results represent opportunities to make exceptional progress, or a sharp reminder of the need to prepare for exams, this is likely to be a moving experience for students.

We have included important exams information into their results pack. This includes information about the exams, a personalised timetable for the real exams, details of revision activities over the next two weeks and a revision booklet.

Revision Opportunities in the Easter Break

In the coming weeks I would encourage all students to make use of the extra learning opportunities staff are offering during Easter. This includes the revision booklet compiled by staff that is included in their mock results pack, and the in-school sessions during the holiday. Students should be aiming to complete a little of the pack each day, and should have a clear revision schedule that leads up to each of their exams.

Following feedback from their mock exams, it is critical that students are following the 'Next Steps' their teachers have identified for them to improve effectively. For general revision, GCSEPod, CorbettMaths and Educake are fantastic resources that can really make a difference: every mark counts.

National Tutoring Programme

Students on the National Tutoring Programme will be contacted separately if their tutor is able to offer additional sessions during the Easter holidays.

Letters of Encouragement and Praise

Traditionally, we ask parents and carers to write letters to students at this time of year. These will then be given to students during the week beginning the 2nd May as part of a motivational event. Letters can be handwritten or typed, and may be as long or short as you see fit. Please consider the words that your child needs to hear most now: whether praising progress, encouraging that 'dig deep and persevere' attitude, or discussing the future and their aspirations - you know them best.

In previous years, this has proven a powerful process which has moved students and given them extra encouragement when they need it most. Though we may say it, and show it in our actions, nothing really says 'I've got your back' quite like a letter from someone that cares.

If you feel unable to write a letter of this nature, or would like to see an example, please let me know. Staff are happy to support, and have previously written letters of support for tutees where necessary.

Loan of ICT Equipment

Please let the office know if you need to borrow a laptop or headphones in order to access revision during the Easter holiday – office@holbrookacademy.org

Year 11 - Plans for the last day

The last day of study for Year 11 this year will be the 24th June. Up until this day, students must continue to attend school and to go to their timetabled lessons between exams. We will be rearranging the Year 11 timetable after May half term to ensure that - as much as possible - students spend time in lessons that they have not completed exams in, rather than classes that they have already finished assessments for. In the latter case, staff will provide quiet study environments and resources.

All students must also be available on 29th June, which is the exams contingency day for this year. If an exam has to be cancelled, it will take place on this day.

On their final day in school, Year 11 will have a half day to allow them to prepare for Prom and say their goodbyes. In the morning, our annual Year 11 celebration assembly will take place from 9am, and will include presentation of the Holbrook Record of Achievement for every student. Parents and carers are encouraged to attend and will be most welcome. Further details will follow nearer the time.

Additional Information

For subjects where advance information is especially complicated, heads of department have created short video clips explaining what students need to revise. These videos can be found on this YouTube playlist:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PVI5ERo1DOc&list=PLiksJKFTpbaJed8pJVEL1A4SW3MvgebIP>

In addition to this, a recording the key points and frequently asked questions from this week's Year 11 parent information meeting is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=weit-F7ujuQ>

And finally ...

Please ensure that your child is working as hard as possible over the coming weeks to reach their potential. If you feel your child is struggling with any element of their work please do not hesitate to make contact with the Academy and we will support you in the best way possible.

Yours sincerely,

Mr K Newstead
Assistant Headteacher



EXAMS REMINDER

Please can we remind you that:

- All students should be in school uniform whilst they are in school for exams. It may be advisable to bring a sweatshirt or jumper as the Gym, where most exams are held, can be cold.
- The location of all exams will be listed on the timetables on display in the Academy. Full details of where students should assemble, will be provided before the exams begin.
- Morning exams will start at 9.00am and afternoon exams will start at 1.30pm.
- We will endeavour to ensure that afternoon exams finish in time for school transport, however, if your child is entitled to extra time, it may be necessary for you to make alternative arrangements.
- All students should come to each exam with the correct equipment. Depending on the exam, each student should have **black** pens (more than one), pencil, 30cm ruler, eraser, scientific calculator, protractor, compasses. Any pencil case must be see-through. Bottles of water are allowed in the exam room but must be clear plastic bottles with no label. Students who arrive at an exam without the correct equipment will be asked to purchase the required items from the Finance Office.
- We require a phone call in the event of any student being late for an exam or if they are absent due to illness, in which case we would require preferably a doctor's letter, which must be handed in to the exam office within 2 days of the exam. Please phone the Academy office (01473 328317) which is open from 7.30am to 4.30pm.
- Mobile phones, other electronic devices and watches must not be taken into any exam room. Please ensure these are kept at home or in lockers. The Academy is unable to take responsibility for their safekeeping.
- A high standard of behaviour is expected both in exams and also round the Academy. Failure to meet these requirements may lead to the student's invitation to Leavers' Day and the Prom being withdrawn.
- Exam results will be available for collection from the Performing Arts Centre in the Sports Centre from 9.00am to 11.00am on **Thursday 25th August 2022**. This will be in the form of basic results printed on Academy headed paper, which should be acceptable to all colleges. If your son/daughter is not able to attend on this day then please ask them to hand in a stamped addressed envelope to the Academy office so the results can be posted home, or provide written permission for someone else to collect on their behalf.
- Exam certificates will be available at the Presentation Evening, further details will be available on results day.