

19th October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 11 Exams Information

Today, your child has been given a booklet compiled by our Exams Officer, Louise Short, that sets out some guidelines and expectations for examinations over the forthcoming year. A copy of the booklet is attached for convenience.

It is important that you read this through carefully with them; knowing how to follow our routines will reduce stress on exam days, and avoiding malpractice is critical if all their hard work is to be rewarded next summer.

In this booklet, you will also find details of the mock exams that will inform predicted grades, which are shared with sixth forms and colleges.

October half-term is the ideal time to revise content covered in Year 10, and build momentum with Year 11 content. The goal of effective revision is to remind students of things they already know, but might have forgotten, and to extend their knowledge by making new connections. Fortunately, there are systems in place to help with this.

[GCSEPod.com](https://www.gcsepod.com) is a fantastic resource that we subscribe to for all students. It can be accessed using any Holbrook Google account, but clicking the 'sign-in with Google button' on the login screen. GCSEPod provides narrated videos covering everything you need to know for most subjects, in manageable chunks. This is an excellent resource for nightly revision - when you can revise the plot of Macbeth in 15 minutes, half an hour goes a long way.

For Science and Computer Science, Educake is a useful addition to the quizzes and videos on GCSEPod. Students can email Mr Clarke or Mr Moore if they need their login information.

In Maths, Corbett Maths is an easy to access resource that does not require a login. This includes worked examples and practice worksheets with answers. This document has additional information about Maths revision sites:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/15X3z52QuHiLEnopTUzTlcbejqYkslb1/edit?usp=sharing&oid=103496114932040328851&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Some parents have asked for some guidance on strategies for the actual process of revision. This link will take you through to some 'tried and tested' methods to revisiting and digesting prior knowledge. Note that this is a Year 11 assembly from the start of this year:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1cTJhogBGcA45rHVcsfjLXP22wZmy1hJx8fhqunpr2Aw/edit?usp=sharing>

If all the above is already in hand - I have seen some very impressive revision timetables! - it may be useful to look to the coming term instead. Arriving back at school next half-term having already previewed content on the curriculum, is a big advantage for any student. You can find upcoming topics, key dates, and further revision strategies, on this document:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XYuIPj8h2gE9AvmC7AQJ-SzdZVByigHA3nQMt8MRFss/edit?usp=sharing>

And finally, an acknowledgement that all of the above is rather a lot. Please be vigilant for signs of overwork and burnout, or the equally overwhelmed behaviours of those with their heads in the sand. Powerful habits are built on consistency and quality, not unsustainable intensity.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kerrick Newstead', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kerrick Newstead
Assistant Headteacher

Enc