



6th March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

With the next set of mock exams a week away I wanted to write both to remind you of the support in place to help your child to be successful and also to highlight some of the exam rules and expectations.

Individual mock exam timetables will be given out in school today. Please go through this carefully with your child so that they have the right equipment with them each day. It is essential that they arrive in good time for each exam. Any water bottles must be in clear plastic with no labels. The advent of smart watches mean watches cannot be worn in the exam hall. No phones are allowed in the exam hall at all. Full school uniform must be worn. This and other useful information about the exams can be found on the 'Exam Information' part of the school [website](#).

Every Year 11 student has been given a book with advice on how to revise and the best approaches were explained in an assembly. Please ask them to show this to you and explain which revision strategies they are using. The book has specific strategies for each subject and you may need to talk this through with them.

Teachers will continue to set all Home Learning through Google Classroom. This is where weekly homework tasks are shared as well as revision materials. It is essential that students continue to check their Google Classrooms all the way until the end of the summer exams.

There is a wide range of online revision support available to all Year 11 students at Denton Community College. As well as Sparx Maths and Seneca Learning, students also find GCSEpod very valuable. This resource has 3 minute videos that explain every topic for most subjects studied in school. Students use their school login details to access GCSEpod from the website and then navigate to the subjects/topics.

I would recommend that students start revising with their own exercise books and then build their knowledge with GCSEpod, revision books, BBC Bitesize and other additional materials. If they have any questions they can contact their teachers either by email or through their Google Classroom. You can also contact their teachers by email if you have any questions or concerns about how the exams should be approached.

The after-school Extended Study sessions are also continuing. Whilst these are not currently compulsory, I would very strongly recommend that your child attends them. These provide focused opportunities for teachers to go over exam technique, reinforce the most difficult knowledge and concepts, and give dedicated revision time with the teacher available to answer any questions. There is a strong link between attending Extended Study and positive outcomes in the summer exams.

Attendance and punctuality are also strongly linked to positive outcomes and I cannot emphasise enough how important these are between now and the last exams in June. Unless there is a medical reason for absence, your child should be in school. Lessons begin at 8:40am. Students should be at school for 8:30 so they can be at the classrooms in good time ready to learn. Year 11 students should be leading the way with their punctuality and setting the standard for the rest of the school. You can check your child's attendance and punctuality in real time using the Class Charts app. If you see that they are late, either to school or to their lesson, I ask you to discuss with them so that there is no further lateness. If you are unable to login to Class

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Charts, please contact your child's form tutor and they will reissue the code to you. It really is an excellent app and will also allow you to see all the positive points and praise that staff are giving.

The run in to exams can be stressful and some students do find it particularly difficult. We do have emotional support available in school and can also signpost to online support such as www.kooth.com. If you are concerned about your child's emotional well-being, please contact their form tutor or Head of Year.

I hope the information above is of practical use to you and helps to support your Year 11 child through their mock exams and in the run up to their formal exams. We are all very proud of our Year 11 students and want to help ensure they achieve the very best they can this year.

Yours sincerely,



Donald Cumming
Deputy Headteacher