

9 Mach 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

The next few months are crucial for your son or daughter as they prepare to sit their GCSEs this summer. We all know that these are important exams as the grades achieved will determine what he or she does next in life.

Students need to use the limited time left before the exams well. They need to be organised and work hard. One of the hardest demands on students is that of understanding the long-term importance of doing the best they can, and learning to shelve short-term fun at times in the interest of long-term benefits.

There are a number of simple things that you can do as a parent to help students to be as prepared as possible.

- Making sure your child understands the importance of making the most of lesson times.
- We suggest students spend between one and two hours per evening studying; this could be spent on homework, reviewing notes, reading around the subject or creating revision cards. This time should be doubled on the weekend.
- Providing the tools for homework and revision; a quiet space to work and a “workbox” of pens, paper and other necessities.
- Ensuring mobile phones, games consoles and other distractions are put away whilst students are working.
- Showing a positive interest in your son / daughter’s school work and helping with homework (but not doing it for them), testing them when they ask you etc.
- Advising your child on how they can break tasks down so that they are manageable, keeping a subtle eye on progress and celebrating achievements, and seeing a positive way forward when things go badly!
- Agree the rules for homework, coursework and revision.
- All students should have a realistic timetable, balancing work against the “fun stuff” that they will have completed in school; ask to see it.
- Acting as a go-between for your child and the School when necessary. Make sure problems are nipped in the bud and ask the questions that your child can not or will not.

Your support, encouragement and interest can make a spectacular difference to your child’s motivation and ability to cope with the academic and organisational demands of the exam period.

If you do have any concerns or should you wish to discuss any of the above please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Miss M Stafford

Director of Learning Year 11