

12th February 2020

RE: Year 11 Half Term Priorities

Dear Y11 Parent/Carer,

As we embark on the spring term half term holiday, I want to use this opportunity to say a huge well done to our Year 11 students for their ongoing resilience through such challenging times. On the whole, we have been impressed with attendance to live lessons and engagement from the year group, so they certainly deserve congratulations for this.

I hope it is clear that we really don't want students to worry about the arrangements for their GCSEs. As we have been doing so far, as soon as we have some more information on this, we will let you know. We are expecting an update regarding this at the beginning of next half term, so do look out for important emails around this time.

This is also an important time to highlight the most immediate priorities for Year 11 students to enable them to use the upcoming break productively:

Take a break

First and foremost, we do need Year 11 students to use this holiday as chance to switch off and relax (within reason!). It has been a testing 6 weeks and whilst we appreciate that a number of students will be anxious about what is to come, this does not help them to be productive. They must protect their own well-being, whilst maintaining a good routine, including structured sleeping patterns and definitely not spending the entire week glued to their phone; we encourage students to get some fresh air and remain as active as they can.

Half term revision

The half term break is a good opportunity for students to rest and reset their batteries for the final stretch of their GCSEs, however, it is also important that students use their time wisely and complete a healthy amount of revision across the course of the week. To help students balance this, we have drawn up a **suggested** holiday timetable. There is absolutely **no requirement** for students to follow this, however it might help them understand how to strike the right balance between completing revision and getting enough rest. Regardless of how students decide to structure their week, I would suggest aiming for about **3 hours of revision a day**.

Time	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9:00-10:00	Free time	Maths	English	Option 4	Go for a walk	Option 1	Option 3	Exercise	Science
10:00-11:00	Free time	Maths	English		Go for a walk		Option 3	Exercise	Science
11:00-11:15	BREAK								
11:15-12:15	Free time	Science	Option 2	Science	Free time	English	Option 4	Free time	
12:15-13:15	Free time			Option 1				Free time	Maths
13.15-14.15	LUNCH								
14:15-15:15	Go for a walk	Option 1	Listen to some music	Exercise	Maths	Exercise	Go for a walk	Option 2	Read a book
15:15-16:15	Go for a walk		Listen to some music	Exercise		Exercise	Go for a walk		Read a book
16:15-16:30	BREAK								
16:30-17:30	Free time	Read a book	Option 3	Bake a cake	Option 2	Option 4	Research Post-16 courses	English	Free time
17:30-18:30	Free time	Read a book		Bake a cake			Research Post-16 courses		Free time

Using a timetable like this to help structure their week will help students stay organised which, in turn, will mean they feel less stressed and anxious. There is an electronic version of this timetable linked [here](#), so students can personalise it, if helpful.



Subject Revision Pages

Each department has created some guidelines to help students structure their half-term revision. These guidelines will help them make sure the work they do over the holiday is effective and focused on the right areas. Students can find these guidelines by clicking [here](#), by following the link below, or in the attached pdf document.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1okA9HKNI ZdjgIM6daiBIAJ6sYPw7GbjwvTBdb0YrMnY/edit?usp=sharing>

There are instructions at the front of the document telling them how best to use it. Please note, they do not need to do everything, only the subjects they are studying.

Personal Revision Plans

Subject teachers have also given students individual guidance on the areas of revision that they need to work on most of all. These personal revision plans are based on student performance in the November mock exams and will help students revise the areas they find most difficult. If your son or daughter isn't sure what these areas are, please ask them to contact their subject teacher via email. Working through these plans should also make up part of their half-term revision.

Finally, I'd like to thank you all for your ongoing support and I look forward to seeing students back in their live lessons at 9am on Monday 22nd February.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Hisham Abubaker'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Hisham Abubaker
Director of Learning - Year 11