



Wednesday 17 November 2021

## Year 11 Exam preparation

Dear Parent/Carer

As you are aware the Year 11 mock exams will be taking place during the week commencing 22 November for two weeks. Understandably, students can feel anxious in the run up to the mock exams. In this letter, I would like to share with you some of the information and messages that we have been giving to your child about their exams and making the most of their time in Year 11.

### Morning attendance

In order to start the exams, we are asking that students are in school by 8.50am. We are going to provide a brief pre-exam session in the large hall before each exam and need students to be on time for this. This is to help students feel less anxious about each exam.

### Exam Anxiety

We have been and will continue to offer exam stress sessions in HU6 every Thursday lunchtime. There are also some good tips [here](#).

### Attendance

Attendance between now and the final exams is crucial to ensure that your child not only has as much teaching contact with their teachers as possible, but also to ensure they are privy to essential exam practice. There is a strong link correlation between attendance and success in final exams. It is clear that low attendance has a significant impact on final grades as missed lessons creates knowledge gaps. These gaps in knowledge become quickly apparent to students and puts students under even more pressure to catch up.

### Effective revision strategies

Throughout their time in Year 11, students have been taught what constitutes effective and ineffective revision strategies. Often the easiest strategies prove to be the most ineffective. The following have all been proven by research to have little or no impact on learning:

- Rereading
- Copying notes
- Summarising
- Highlighting key words

The two most effective revision strategies are testing and spacing coupled with good motivation and organisation. Research shows that students who test themselves regularly remember significantly more information and are less likely to suffer from the negative effects of stress associated with exams. Students have been told that although testing and spacing out their testing may feel uncomfortable and more difficult than other strategies, they are the most effective. Further information on these strategies can be found [here](#).

## **Organisation**

As a school we are fully aware of the link between disorganisation and anxiety and during the run up to the mocks and final exams, students need to be calm and in control. At the start of term, we gave students a homework timetable that not only tells them what homework will be set when, but more importantly shows them how to break up the tasks and when to complete them. Following this homework timetable will make completing homework a lot easier as well as improving the effectiveness of their work.

## **Common mistakes**

Finally, the link below highlights the most common mistakes that students make during their studies and when revising for exams. We have discussed these with your child on numerous occasions and we would urge you to do the same to ensure they don't fall into the same traps.

<https://blog.innerdrive.co.uk/10-common-student-mistakes>

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me on [cwatson@tdms.worc.sch.uk](mailto:cwatson@tdms.worc.sch.uk).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Claire Watson', written in a cursive style.

Claire Watson