



20th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Exams are tough. Anyone who thinks differently probably hasn't sat in an exam hall for some time. As a school, we are throwing everything we can at year 11 to make sure they are fully prepared – interventions, revision sessions and lessons focused on gaps in learning. The message we're getting back from students is that they need help and support with revising at home – and this is where we need you.

Our mock exam results night on Monday was well attended – thank you to all parents and carers who came for your support. From next Monday, students will receive a weekly list of revision topics for all subjects to help them structure their time at home. Should these tasks not be completed, students will be asked to attend a homework catch-up session in the library after school.

Learning at home is important for students in all year groups, and our assemblies on effective behaviours for learning encourage students to take their exercise books home so they can re-read the notes and tasks they have completed in lessons. This will help them to prepare for the retrieval activities teachers have at the start of their lessons, as we support students to learn in a more effective way – ultimately knowing more and remembering more over time.

There are two simple things all students can do to maximise their learning each day. The first is to be present in school – a day of absence means a day of lost learning. Secondly, a nutritious breakfast sets the body and mind up for the challenges of the day. I am pleased that we are able to offer a free breakfast for all students from 8.10 each morning.

Finally this week, I am sure you will have seen news of forthcoming industrial action which will impact the school. Members of the NEU association have voted to strike over national issues regarding pay and conditions – the industrial action is not against the school. The first date planned is Wednesday 1st February. I will write to all parents next week with further details of how the school will be impacted by this action.

With best wishes for the weekend

Mr Dan Bagshaw
Head of School