

WS/Rns/Year 11 students

4 May 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

The GCSE exam period is underway with a few of the early exams already being taken. The formal exam period begins on 14th May and runs to 15th June. This is a stressful time for students and I include with this letter some important information to support you and your child through this period.

Revision timetable

We don't, and haven't for many years, operate a study leave system as we believe that students are best supported in school by subject teachers as much as possible during the exam period. To that end we have devised a comprehensive timetable of revision and support sessions, led by specialist teachers throughout the exams. In addition we will provide quiet study places, staffed by our teachers, where students can revise in school with the support of teaching staff should they need it. I include a copy of the timetable with this letter and one will be issued to students during tutor time. They will be informed of rooms and staff in school.

This timetable includes a very small amount of home-study towards the end of the exam period on the afternoon of 5th June if not involved in the Geography exam, and on 13th and 14th June for those not involved in the Spanish exam. Study rooms will be available for those who prefer to revise in school. Students will be expected to be in school during the rest of the exam period.

Surviving the exam period

I have also included a guide to supporting your son or daughter through the exam period – everything from revision tips, the best pens and food and drink. Most of it is common sense but it is always useful I think to remind ourselves of some of the things we know work (and indeed don't work).

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What to revise

The new specifications are particularly exam heavy and it is easy to become overwhelmed by the sheer volume of things to learn. To support you and our students I have asked departments to produce a simple checklist of all the key topics that need to be revised which I have collated into a booklet. Your son or daughter will be bringing this home with them on Tuesday. I urge you to discuss it with them, especially the importance of revising those topics they feel least confident about. Revision pods for all topics can be found at www.gcsepod.com, which students have been accessing for the last couple of months.

Thank you for your support this year and ahead as we approach these exams. Please don't hesitate to contact school if you have any questions or concerns. For subject specific queries please contact your child's teacher. For any other concerns please contact Mr Billington, our Head of Year 11.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mrs Westerman', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mrs Westerman
Vice Principal