

9 February 2018

Dear parents or carer,

Support for your child in preparing for GCSEs in Year 11

Your son/daughter will sit their next Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs) in the two weeks immediately after half term, from Monday 19th February to Friday 2nd March. During this time, periods 1, 2, 4 and 5 will be used for examinations, but students will still have normal timetabled lessons for period 3 each day.

In order to help prepare for these examinations, students will have been set revision activities and strategies from their teachers; teachers have placed these activities on Show My Homework, should you wish to support your child in preparing for their exams. Students should also use the advice received at Parents' Evening to aid their preparation.

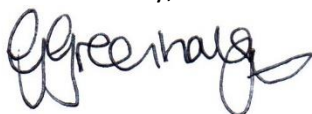
Following their PPEs, there will be about eight weeks of lessons remaining before the GCSE exams begin. During the final phase of their preparation it is vital that students make the most of the timetabled lessons and complete the independent revision tasks set by their teachers as homework. We have taught revision skills and strategies to all students and supported them to produce revision timetables.

We will be running some targeted intervention session for groups of students across a range of subjects to support them to achieve their potential; these students and parents will be contacted by the individual subject teachers or a member of the Senior Team. We would ask for your support to ensure that those identified attend these sessions.

To further support all students with independent revision we have purchased an award-winning platform called GCSEpod; students are able to access all of the resources through a PC, tablet or mobile phone. This resource compliments the revision homework set by teachers and comes highly recommended by the Association for School and College Leaders as a resource to improve achievement. We have introduced this to all students in an assembly today and the students have been informed how to access these resources to aid revision for the new GCSEs. Please see the instructions of how to access this resource on the attached letter.

This time can cause anxiety and stress for some students and we have emphasised how important it is for them to also build in 'time off' from their studies to relax, sleep and ensure a good sense of wellbeing. At school, in the weeks between the PPEs and the final exams, we will be offering targeted support to those students who have been identified as needing some help with management of examination pressures and work-life balance. Students will also be able to self-refer for weekly support that is being led by Ms Andrie.

Yours faithfully,



Gemma Greenhalgh
Head of School



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Dear Parent/Guardian,

GCSEPod is now available to all GCSE students. It can be accessed via the link on the school website. We have subscribed to the award-winning service to give your child access to thousands of hours of professionally produced, audio-visual content that will benefit them in preparation for their exams. GCSEPod has over 5,000 teacher-written, audio-visual pods that have been produced specifically for learning, homework and revision. The Pods contain all the right facts, quotes, keywords, dates and annotated diagrams that your child needs for GCSE success. They won't need to use GCSEPod for long to see the impact; in fact, consistent use of just 10-minute chunks is proven to support achievement whatever your child's target grade is.

GCSEPod can be viewed on mobiles, tablets and PCs and the Pods can be downloaded for offline viewing. The Pods are mapped to the curriculum and students can access pre-set exam playlists that collate all the Pods relevant to a specific exam into a neatly organised list.

Once your child has activated their account they can browse the Pod library and create their own playlists – just as they would when they're listening to music. We recommend that you discuss GCSEPod with your son or daughter to ensure that they have successfully activated their accounts and encourage them to make use of this service throughout their GCSEs.

All students have already been registered with GCSEPod and simply need to activate their account and choose a username and password. To access GCSEPod for the first time, students should follow these simple steps:

1. Go to www.gcsepod.com (follow the link on the school website) and click "**Login**" in the top right hand corner
2. Click "**New here? Get started.**"
3. Select "**Pupil**"
4. **Enter your child's name, date of birth and type the school name.** Your school should appear in a dropdown list. Click on the school in this list to confirm it.
5. Select a **username, password, and a password hint** to help you remember the password.

Once logged in, students can search for Pods by keyword, a specific exam or subject area.

For more ways you can help support your child using GCSEPod, visit www.gcsepod.com/parents where you'll find lots more information and resources.

If you have any questions regarding GCSEPod please contact me at the school. For specific technical advice please use the help pages on the website or email support@gcsepod.com.

Yours faithfully,

Mr J Bates

Assistant Headteacher