

Dear Parent / Carer,

I hope that this email finds you all well, it was lovely to see so many of you at Parents Evening last week and I hope you found it useful. Certainly, my appointments with the students I teach were on the whole really positive and it was great to be able to say such lovely things about the students, as well as offer guidance for the next few months.

Over the past few weeks, the year team and leadership team have been having individual dialogues with the students about how they felt the mock exams had gone and what they thought about their results. From these dialogues (which will be completed this week) it was really clear to everyone how important revision was. Pretty much every student who was disappointed with their mock results had done little to no revision, and those that were pleased and who had done very well had done lots of revision. The message was very much that revision is the key to GCSE success.

Following on from these dialogues Mr Smith and I did an assembly with the students about the importance of revision and what our expectations of them are going forward. I have attached the PowerPoint that I put together for the assembly so that you can see the message and guidance that we have given them. You will see that we are suggesting that they should be doing a minimum of 10-15 hours revision a week outside lessons at the moment, and obviously this will be increased as they near the exams. I have asked that teachers only set revision based homework going forward. You also see that I have asked them to think about what they do with their mobile phones whilst they are revising. Whilst I know they will say that they can revise with their phone nearby, we know that it will be a huge distraction. I know this very well as I have to put my phone in a separate room when I am marking student work otherwise I will get little done!

We have told the students that they are going to have to work really hard over the next few months but if they do they give themselves a great chance of achieving the grades that they know they are capable of. I have told them that this period of time is not going to be the most exciting of their lives but it is potentially the most important in terms of laying out the path of their future. We know that some of them will wobble but please be reassured that we will be there every step of the way, giving them the support they need. I know you will be too.

Year 11 are half way through their last full term at compulsory schooling. We have 10 school weeks before the first GCSE exam and those 10 weeks will fly by. If we all work together to support and guide them to enable them to do their best then hopefully they will come out of their exams feeling confident and they can then have a long and (hopefully) hot summer looking forward to results day and then whatever path they have chosen to take next.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me, or their tutor, about any concerns, worries or questions you have about any of this.

Kind Regards,

Mr P Macdonald, Year 11 Learning Coordinator