



1 December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Year 13 mock examinations, revision and study leave

Study Leave

Study leave will start on **Monday 2nd January 2024 until Monday 15th January 2024**. All students will be expected back into school for lessons on **Tuesday 16th January 2024**.

If a student has an examination timetabled outside of the normal study leave arrangements, then the following applies: -

Afternoon Examination – additional study leave granted for the morning of the examination;

Morning Examination – no additional study leave granted.

We urge students to communicate with teachers to collect work missed if they miss any timetabled morning lessons as a result of this additional study leave.

We appreciate that it is hard to have mock examinations after Christmas but doing them in January does give us time to work with the students on improving their grades during the Spring term. Students should know that all these skills are vital to gaining higher grades:

- practising past questions: applying their knowledge to the precise wording and requirements of the paper will improve their marks.
- showing off their knowledge: revising and using lots of detail; being precise and specific with examples and in their workings and explanations
- spending time explaining and analysing: developing direct links to the keywords in the question

Please also remind them to break their revision into manageable chunks, with frequent breaks. Sitting for hours in their room does not necessarily lead to effective revision. Exercise, fresh air, healthy food and lots of sleep are crucial, as is having a good time at Christmas. During the year 13 tutorial programme this year we have covered scheduling and prioritising and these resources are available via their TEAMS account.

Most importantly of all, please help your son or daughter keep everything in perspective. Remind them that they should do their best but if, at the end of the day, it doesn't work out as they dream, there are always other pathways which will still lead them to a successful and happy life, just via an alternative route. And, there are still almost six months to go, so they have time to make an impact on their final grade.

Lessons will be running up to and including **Wednesday 13th December**. Sixth formers will **not** be expected in school on Thursday 14th and Friday 15th December unless they are involved in the Drama Festival, Carol Service and final assembly.

I hope you and your family have an enjoyable build up to the Christmas holidays.

Yours faithfully

Mr A Jenkins

Head of Sixth Form and Assistant Headteacher