



Year 11 Matters!

Newsletter—January 2021



Sprint Finish

There are six school weeks to the start of the Spring Mocks on 21st March. These will feature more exams than in the autumn in order to provide a more realistic experience of the real exams in the summer. We have launched 'The Sprint Finish' to help drive a sense of pace, but calmness, in their preparations for the summer exams. The Sprint Finish is the collective term for a number of strategies aimed at raising Year 11 Achievement. These include:



- **Period 6**

We are asking all students to attend after school Study Groups for Maths and English on Mondays and Tuesdays up to 4.15pm for the next six weeks. Achieving strong grades in these subjects opens doors for their future careers and helps prevent frustrating re-study and exam retakes next year.

- **How to Support Your Child**

On Tuesday 8th February we will be holding a TEAMs meeting between 6-7pm designed to provide advice on the most effective strategies to help support your child's progress in English, Maths and Science, and some thoughts on effective revision techniques. Please use this link to join the meeting: [Join Meeting](#)

- **Homework and Guided Revision**

Homework and Guided Revision will naturally increase this term. Please help encourage your child to stick to the deadlines set. Regularly home learning now will save last minute panics in the summer.

- **Walking Talking Mocks (WTM)**

To help students prepare for the Spring Mocks, they will have a pair of two hour Walking Talking Mocks, one in Maths and one in English. The teachers will talk and walk through example questions before the students will apply their understanding to similar questions. The Maths WTM is on 15th February and the English WTM on 8th March. There will also be a Science Deep Learn for two hours on 5th April.

- **Careers**

To help provide motivation now, Mr Rafferty is working with students to firm up on their career plans and their next steps after Year 11.

- **Attendance Spring Watch**

Not surprisingly Covid has contributed to disappointing autumn attendance. Year 11 had the lowest attendance in school. Evidence would suggest that an attendance below 90% can lead to a two grade drop per subject. Therefore, please try to maximise your child's attendance during this crucial Spring Term. We are setting all Year 11 a 96% attendance target for the Spring Term.

- **The Triangle**

This represents the key partnership between school, home and the student. If communication is strong then the student is more likely to flourish. There is an important Subject Consultation Evening on 3rd March, but in addition please feel welcome to contact myself, Mr Rafferty or your child's tutor with general concerns or your child's teachers with more subject specific enquiries.

The Big Reveal in December saw our students open their results envelope. How did they feel? How did you feel? Their performance was extremely useful in helping teachers gain a true reflection of their strengths and areas of development. We want student to further upgrade their revision preparation for the Spring Mocks. Are they currently sticking to a prepared revision timetable? The more they learn now, the more the pressure will be taken off the summer. Their grades in the Spring Mocks will provide key information if Teacher Assessed Grades are required. However, it is looking increasingly likely that external exams, with some adjustment, will take place this summer.

The well-being of our delightful students is our first and most essential responsibility and we are extremely conscious of the challenges they continue to face with the global pandemic disrupting their KS4 learning. We know that some students struggle with exam stress and that anxiety is burdening a number of our students. Therefore, we are starting up a 'Smile Club' that will discuss and practice strategies to help with revision techniques, exam stress and the pressures of modern day living. This is open to all students. We will also continue to provide one on one support for students whose anxiety levels are becoming a particular concern. Please let us know if your child would benefit from either of these.

We want our students to 'Be Proud! Be Confident! Be Successful!' We want them to hold their heads up high and to be proud of themselves, to be confident that they can achieve great things and to be successful in making their dreams and aspirations come true.

Mr R Eadon



On Thursday 16th December Year 11 collected their mocks results.

In order to give them a taste of what it would be like in the summer we allowed them to come in non-uniform and they collected them from the hall period 5 as a year group. There were tears of joy as well as the other kind of tears. We hope, good or bad, students will bottle that feeling and use it to motivate them over the coming months.

We would like to congratulate the following students on their progress in their mocks. You really worked hard and the results speak for themselves! Well done.

Zainab A, Harriet D, Dhiren G, Joseph T, Tabitha T

Sunnier Skies

As I write this I'm currently locked down with the dreaded Covid, which has been a shadow over much of your secondary school life. That said, I know you have risen to the challenges it has presented and are going into this summer as strong as any year previously. The summer represents a change to come with exams due to finish on 28th June.

It is important to look forward to the events yet to come. On the 25th May we will hold a Leavers' Celebration Afternoon. We will hand out Leavers Hoodies and Year Group Awards along with recognising the efforts and progress made through our Year 11 Passport Scheme, with a glittering array of prizes to be won. There will be a BBQ and other treats to reward the students for their hard work. The Prom on the 1st July could be the best ever! Huge amounts of planning are underway to make this one worthy of our 50th year as a school. We hope it will be the most memorable and special prom yet.

Mr Rafferty
Head of Year 11

Parent Helpline



While we at school do our best to support our whole community during school time, there may be times when school is closed and families are in need of help with mental health and emotional wellbeing. We would recommend the Young minds website – it offers support to young people and their families and can direct you to further or urgent help if needed.

Young Minds parent Helpline is a free service which offers detailed advice, emotional support and signposting about a child or young person up to the age of 25.

- You will get through to a trained advisor who will listen and talk through your concerns in complete confidence.
- Your advisor will help you to understand your child's behaviour and give you practical advice on what to do next.
- If you need further help, they will arrange for an independent experienced professionals to call you for a 50 minute telephone consultation within 7 days.

Parents webchat is open 9:30–4pm, Monday–Friday
To access the webchat, select the webchat icon from the website



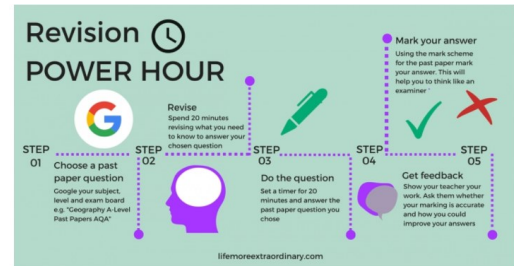


Preparing for Success—The Final Stretch



This is what a power hour does for you:

- Forces you to balance the time between learning the content and practising your exam technique.
- Stops you spending too long in one sitting on revision techniques that do not work. You mix up your activities to make it more likely you will remember stuff when you have finished your revision session.
- You do not need to revise for too long. It is a maximum of one hour, but if you break it down into 20 minute chunks with 5 minute breaks between each session.
- You are forced to use an active revision technique: writing down what you know and analysing your work to see how many marks you have earned.



Creating a resource of your own flashcards

Why?

- Using flashcards is a repetition strategy
- They are a simple 'cue' on the front and an 'answer' on the back
- Flashcards engage "active recall"
- They engage in 'Active Recall' – this creates stronger connections for your memory
- They promote self reflection – cements knowledge to your memory
- Metacognition – Your taking control of your own learning – You decide what to put on each card
- They help you memorise facts quickly
- Drilling – flashcards help you practise the same information over and over again – practise makes perfect



You need to 'be smart when making and using flashcards to make sure you are effective.....'

How?

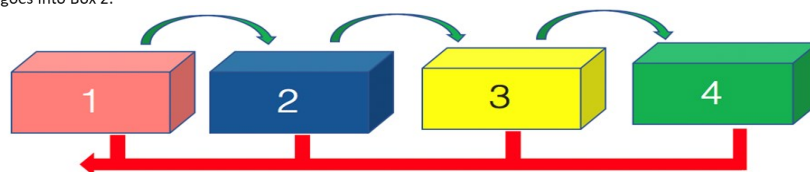
- Ensure flashcards have a key question or key term on one side and the answer or definition on the other
- Ensure the right questions and knowledge are on the cards
- Keep information as short as possible
- Write clearly
- Use different coloured pens or car to categorise your cards
- Make and use your flashcards as soon as you have learnt the topic in class

All flash cards start off in Box/Stack 1. As you review the cards, each card you answer correctly goes into Box 2.

If you give the wrong answer the card stays in box 1.

When you review cards in Box 2, if you still get it right you move the card to box 3 and so on until all cards are in Box 4.

If you get a card wrong in any box, it goes back to Box 1.



- *The Key is that the cards you know less are reviewed more frequently than the cards in the higher boxes*
- *You now must choose the frequency at which you review each box*
- *For example – Box 1 every day, Box 2 every 2 days, Box 3 every 3 days, Box 4 every 4 days*



Year 11 Study Groups Timetable 2021-2022

Subject	Day	Time	Room
English	Tuesday	3.15-4.15	Eng Dept
Maths	Monday	3.15-4.15	M1,2,3
Lunchtime Maths <i>(Sessions are invitation only)</i>	Tuesday & Thursday	12.15-12.55	M1
Further Maths <i>(Sessions are invitation only)</i>	Friday	3.15-4.15	M1
Science	Thursday	3.15-4.15	Science Dept
Animal Care <i>(After school sessions are invitation only)</i>	Monday	3.00-4.30	R1
	Tuesday	12.15-12.55 & 3.00-4.30	R1
	Wednesday	Week A 11.50 / Week B 12.15	R1
Art	Monday	3.00-4.30	AR1
Drama	Drama is available when booked (in consultation with <i>scheduled</i> departments).		Drama Dept
D & T	Tuesday	3.15-4.15	DT2, DT4 & DT5
French	Monday	12.15-12.55	LA2 (week A) LA5 (week B)
Geography	Thursday	3.15-4.15	HU1
German	Tuesday	12.15-12.55	CS1
History <i>(Week A only)</i>	Friday	12.15-12.55	HU8
PE	Friday	3.15-4.30	P1, CS5
Philosophy & Ethics <i>(Week A only)</i>	Tuesday	12.15-12.55 & 3.15-4.15	P4
Sociology	Monday	3.15-4.15	P5

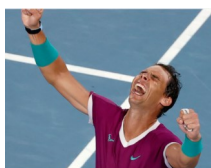
As mentioned in the October Newsletter, Prom will be held here at school on 1st July 2022.

A marquee will be erected on the school field with a barbeque and hog roast along with Potato wedges and plenty of salad as well as plenty of vegetarian options. There will be plenty of entertainment as well as a disco.



We hope you are as excited as we are to hold this special event here at school.

More news to follow in the coming weeks and months!!



8th Feb	How to Support Your Child in English, Maths and Science, 6-7pm
3rd March	Y11 Subject Consultation Evening
21st March	Year 11 Spring Mock Exams
16th May	GCSE Exams Begin
28th June	GCSE Exams Finish
25th May	Leavers Celebration
1st July	Year 11 Prom