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Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year. January marks Y10 students as being just about half way through their GCSE studies. With this in mind, it is important to support our young people with reminders of the significance of their remaining time.

Revision

The need for students to revise is obvious to adults, but for some of our young people it is just plain boring, and the very last thing that they want to do. With this in mind, it can be helpful for students if we link learning and revision to investing in their future earning potential. One way of doing this is to make explicit the employability skills that students are developing through the understanding, learning and applying of different types of information. Students can often become 'hung up' on the fact that they do not think they will ever need to use some of their subject information in the future, and so 'what's the point?' is a phrase that they often say. They lose sight of the skills that they are developing such as the processing of information, collaboration, independence and resilience to name a few.

Of course each student is an individual, and so by encouraging them to see the value revising has on their future chances of being in a career that they aspire to, can add real purpose to them investing their time.

It was lovely to meet so many parents during the virtual subject evening back in December, and to discuss how to support our young people with revision at home. Having had two boys go through GCSEs, I did promise to share some of my tips for parents - I would like to stress that these are just tips that worked for me.

1. **Mobile phones/electronic devices:** These are a real distraction so I would advise that parents encourage students to leave these in a different room to the one they are revising in, particularly if your child is not able to self-regulate whilst they are revising. I appreciate that this can cause confrontation, but if you are paying for the contract then perhaps it is a good idea to remind them of that.
2. **Location:** A desk or table in a quiet location is always the preference. I had one of my son's revising at the kitchen table, whilst I was doing my work because he was not able to focus on his own.
3. **Time:** Frequent, short periods are always better than nothing.
4. **Check-in:** Research shows us that parent support of revision can have a really positive impact. Consider asking your child to talk to you about their revision, and if you feel you can, ask them questions to check they can recall information.

5. **Rewards and consequences:** Link rewards to revision. This does not have to be the monetary variety – maybe you can order their favourite pizza in; how about watching a film of their choice; or maybe letting them stay out for an extra period of time with their friends.

RE Mock Exam

All students in Y10 will receive their Mock grade next week in their RE lesson. No doubt, some students will be delighted and some disappointed, but the advice for all, will be to keep asking questions in lessons, learning from mistakes and closing the gaps to make further knowledge gains.

We want to give you as much notice as possible regarding the next Mock Exam which will be timetabled for Wednesday 16 February. This is again a great opportunity for students to show what further knowledge they have gleaned and look to perform again to the best of their ability. This Mock Examination will follow the same conditions as the first; students will be expected to meet in the canteen at 8.45am.

We were delighted with the attitude, punctuality and response in December and fully expect Y10 RE students to do themselves proud again.

We will be sharing a few new revision strategies in a forthcoming assembly that the RE department have endorsed, that will help with effective revision. We wish all students the best of luck in this second RE Mock Exam.

Punctuality

One of the key employability skills that local employers tell us is time management, and fundamental to this is punctuality. Please check whether your child is late to school and let us know how we can support you. Being late means that not only does your child miss part of their learning for Period 1, but it is also disruptive to the teaching and learning that has already started.

Rewards

The Celebration Assembly went really well and it is lovely to see so many students celebrating their successes. On Tuesday 18 January, 30 of our Y10 students will be celebrating having the top reward points in the year group by having a cinema experience in school. It is fantastic to be able to reward those students who really are trying to be the very best version of themselves.

Tutor Time Curriculum

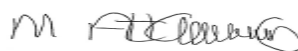
Along with the statutory relationship and sex education, Y10 will also be looking at revision strategies and how to manage stress around revision and exams. More specific information for parents will be shared in the coming weeks.

Kind regards,



Mrs S Barley-Morey

Assistant Head Teacher, Year 10 Lead



Mr M Atkins

Senior Assistant Head Teacher