

Parents and Carers of Year 10 Students

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Principal: Ms Siobhan Hearne

January 2022

### **KS4: Ace Your Exams**

#### **“By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail”**

Dear Parents and Carers

In the previous year's our successful “Ace Your Exams” programme has been launched in term 6 of Year 10, to prepare students for their final year before GCSE's. However, with the last 2 years of disruption we are delighted to bring the launch of this forward to this term, starting with the issuing of free revision guides. Our programme has helped previous students achieve excellent examination outcomes and propelled the school in to the top 25% nationally for results.

This year's programme of support will be more vital than ever, and even more important that students engage in the support we are offering. As such will adapt and amend the support we provide to students as we hopefully work our way out of the end of the pandemic.

Amendments and adjustments for the 2022 exam cohort have been made, but the intention is to **revert to normal for next year's exams** and it is therefore vital that we train the current year 10 students in the revision and examination process.

The following outlines the support we intend to offer, although like a lot of elements of life at the moment is subject to change!

#### **Preparing for Year 11 NOW!**

#### **Revision Guides**

As a gift from the College, students will be issued in **January** with a set of revision guides in each subject that they study (subject to availability). Their revision programme should be a 2 year- long process, rather than a last minute rush and we ask you to support us by getting them started by now. Students will be asked to use these throughout their remaining studies and should familiarise themselves with the content as they go through the course.

#### **Year 10 SPRE 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022, 4:30-7:45 pm**

We would like to invite you to a Year 10 SPRE to discuss the progress made so far and the key areas to work on going forward. More details will follow. This event will be a virtual event, with parents having the ability to book session on line with teachers.

### Revision Workshop:

We are in the process of arranging an external company to come and deliver in **Term 4** a revision workshop, which if successful we will look to continue in year 11. The company will aim to support students in the “how to revise” as well as look at motivation techniques.

### GCSE Trial Examinations Season 1:

**In June** of this year students will be taking part in this programme to give them an early experience of what a GCSE paper looks like and how it feels to sit exams under examination conditions. We hope that following this, over the summer, students will take the opportunity to ‘close the gap’ on key focus areas.

### Technological support:

Teenagers and their phones are difficult to part! However, there is a wealth of apps and websites which students can access which can be used to enhance their study skills. To support students, we offer a range of free study support which is **outlined in the attached booklet**. Likewise, there are a wealth of apps to help students organise their notes and time and support them with the difficult task of revision,

### Study Support

There is absolutely no doubt that experience shows us that success comes to those who work hard both in College and at home. It is vital that students complete additional learning outside of the classroom. You cannot assume that your child will do this for themselves and parents and carers must take an active role in insisting that this happens. This is about supporting students in to getting in to good habits now, finding a quiet time and place to do that little bit extra and taking advantage of the support that we offer over the year ahead.

### Going forward to next year Year 11!

Below outlines the support we have offered in the past as part of the programme of support.

#### Year 11 Term 1 and 2

**Ace your Exams evening:** An evening mainly for parents outlining the year ahead, key dates and options and how best to support your child through the last important 9 months before their exams

**1:1 Future Pathways Meeting:** Each student will have a 1:1 meeting with a Senior Leader or an Achievement Leader to discuss their future plans, identify key action points that need to be addressed and to identify if they need any further individual support at this time.

**Sixth Form Pathways Evening:** We invite students and parents and carers to join us for the evening to explore options for post-16 study at The Latimer Arts College.

**GCSE Trial Examination Season 2:** This usually runs at the end of November when students will take trial examinations in all subjects. It is so important that they approach these examinations with the right attitude. It is an opportunity for students to have already prepared a substantial amount of revision notes and it will give them a benchmark for what they are secure in and what they need to focus on as a priority.

#### Year 11 Term 3 and 4

**GCSE Trial Examination Results Day:** This will be held on students return to school in January and mirrors the actual results day that will take place in August 2023. Based on their mock examinations and current progress, students will be given their results in every subject. This will give an indication of how much distance they need to travel by the summer!

**Year 11 Student Progress Review Evening (SPRE):** It is vital for parents and carers to attend this evening as they will have an opportunity to speak to their child's subject teachers and discuss what a student's priority areas are in the countdown to the summer examination season.

**1:1 Future Pathways Meeting:** Each Year 11 student will have follow up 1:1 meeting with a Senior Leader or an Achievement Leader to ensure that they have firm plans for post-16 and to identify if they need any further support in the run up to their GCSE examinations.

**GCSE Trial Examination Season 3:** We will aim to run a further programme of trial examinations so that students can identify the final priority areas that they can focus on over the Easter break and in the run up to their GCSE examinations.

**Easter Revision:** In the past we have run a highly successful Easter programme of revision sessions for individual subjects and we will plan for this to take place during the Easter holidays in 2023 with students being individually invited to attend relevant sessions.

We believe that this is a comprehensive programme of support offered by the College but we are always open to further requests for help and support so please do let us know if there is anything else that you feel we can provide. Your child needs to do the hard work but if we can work in partnership to support them then there will be no limits to the success they can achieve.

Yours sincerely



**Ms S Hearne**  
Principal



**Mr S Harvey**  
Vice Principal