21st November 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

The Year 11 Trial Exams are fast approaching and I wanted to take this opportunity to remind you about when these will be, what they will involve and how you can best support your child to achieve the best that they can. Firstly, the exam period will run from Monday 9th January - Friday 20th January. The exams will start at 09:00am and 11:30am. The seating plan is always available for the exam the day before and is displayed in The Hive window. Students should check this daily to ensure they know what seat they are to sit in. Attached is a copy of the exam timetable so students can see exactly then their different exams are taking place. If there is not an exam for any students during the week then it is expected that all students attend their normal lesson. With this in mind students still need to bring with them their equipment, including their exercise books, for lessons as well as for the exams. It is essential that all students have a clear pencil case with the required equipment for each exam.

I am also attaching a list of the topics and papers that students will be examined on in the January Trial Exams. This should help students to know which topics they need to prioritise in their preparation and revision for these exams.

As a school we have been trying to prepare our Year 11 students for their upcoming January Trial Exams in a variety of ways. These include dedicating tutor time periods to revision and how to revise strategies. With it now getting closer to the exams, we have now dedicated 3 sessions a week to this. We have also purchased every Year 11 student a CGP ‘How to Revise’ revision guide. These will be used within form time and stored in school up until Christmas. In the last week these will be given to students to take home with them over the 2-week period off from school to ensure their readiness for the exams. We would request however that these revision guides were returned to us as a school when the GCSE exams are finished. We also have members of our excellent Sixth-Form student team coming into assemblies to offer their own personal advice on revision tips and strategies. We are also looking at these students offering revision advice workshops that the Year 11s can access.

In terms of how you can best support your children to achieve the best they can, firstly it is ensuring they attend the Core Subject revision sessions that are taking place weekly after school. This is with Maths on a Monday, English on a Tuesday and Science on a Thursday. Every student has had, and will continue to have, dedicated revision strategy and revision tip sessions within the Tutor Time programme. Some of the revision sessions have focussed on mind-maps, flashcards, reduction as well as other strategies. Again, attached is a PowerPoint with some examples of these strategies so you can work with your child at home to support with their revision. I will echo what I said at the Year 11 Parental Information Evening, students should be revising little and often. This means dedicating two or three 30-45 minutes sessions each night to a range of subjects and topics and ensuring they always allow themselves at least 10 minutes break between each session.

If there are any queries or anything further we as a school can do to support then please do let us know.

Yours Faithfully,

Mr Mills

KS4 SAIL