

4<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

A warm welcome back after the half term holidays. I hope you've all managed to have some valuable family time and have enjoyed the holidays despite some of the wet weather we have experienced!

Whilst this is a really important year for year 11 with their upcoming Summer exams there are also some important dates much earlier I wanted to share with you along with some changes and support we have put in place.

### **Dates To Be Aware Of**

- Mock exams will be happening from Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 15<sup>th</sup>- Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November inclusive (students have been given their timetables on Friday)
- Coursework hand in deadline has now passed for 2 Engineering units.
- Coursework deadline for units R111 and R107 is due in week beginning 25<sup>th</sup> November
- Coursework deadline for units R112 and R108 is due in on 16<sup>th</sup> December.
- Engineering exams (second and final opportunity to improve their grade) are on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January and Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January for some students who are ready and for other students it will be Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May and Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May (mock exam results and coursework grades will determine who is ready to sit it in the January and we will communicate this to you as soon as the mock exams have been marked)
- A smaller second set of mock exams will take place in March

\*Mock exams run exactly like the real exams so that students get the full experience and are well prepared. The information we get from the exams allows us to identify each student's strengths and weaknesses so that teaching that follows can be planned around addressing the areas identified. The results are also used to give the students a personalised analysis to help support them with their direction of revision at home.

### **Tutor Group Changes**

We have re-organised tutor groups this half term so that your son/daughter is now with either an English, Maths or Engineering subject specialist depending on which subject is their greatest need at this moment. We have taken previous assessment data and spoken to teachers to get them in the right place. Tutors will be of course focusing on their health and well-being as always but will also be practising key exam questions to get them fully prepared.

## Additional Engineering Time For Coursework

Some students have been identified as requiring some catch-up time for engineering coursework. As a short term solution and on rotation small groups of students will be temporarily using their PE time for this.

## Revision Support

Please see a list below of revision material which has already been supplied to all year 11 students to support with their revision at home

Subject	Revision Guide	Suggested websites uses/apps
Engineering manufacturing	Revision PowerPoint given to students	<a href="https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/engineering-manufacture-level-1-2-award-certificate-j832-j842/assessment/">https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/engineering-manufacture-level-1-2-award-certificate-j832-j842/assessment/</a>  for OCR – past papers and answers
Engineering Design		<a href="https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/engineering-design-level-1-2-award-certificate-j831-j841/assessment/">https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/engineering-design-level-1-2-award-certificate-j831-j841/assessment/</a>  for OCR – past papers and answers
Maths	CGP Revision Guide Foundation/Higher	<a href="https://hegartymaths.com/">https://hegartymaths.com/</a> All students have their own log in for this site, please let us know if it needs re-setting
English	Eduqas Revision Guide	BBC Bitesize <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zpxh82p">https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zpxh82p</a> <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zw9mycw">https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zw9mycw</a>
Design Technology		BBC Bitesize <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zby2bdm">https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zby2bdm</a>
Physics	CGP GCSE AQA Complete Revision Guide	BBC Bitesize <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zsc9rdm">https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zsc9rdm</a>
Chemistry	CGP GCSE AQA Complete Revision Guide	BBC Bitesize <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z8xtmnb">https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z8xtmnb</a>

- This is a useful little video on top tips on how to get revision started  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zw8qpbk>

We will be spending time this half term on how to create a revision timetable and how to revise effectively, along with supplying even more revision tools along the way

### **GCSEpod Revision Support**

We have just purchased an online revision app for students to use free of charge called GCSEPod which provides students with highly concentrated 3-5 minute bursts of audio-visual, expert-written learning which can help to reinforce and consolidate key GCSE topics.

From data from over 2,200 students that use it, shows that higher GCSEPod users are more likely to exceed their predicted grades by a larger margin than those who don't use GCSEPod. On average, highest users received 3 grades higher across their subjects than predicted. Please support your son/daughter by encouraging them to spend 20 minutes every other day accessing the podcasts and completing multiple choice questions on what they've watched. Students have been introduced to the site and have downloaded the app this week and I've enclosed a flyer for further information.

<https://members.gcsepod.com/login>

### **Friday Personalised Revision Sessions**

On Friday 8th November we will be starting our year 11 lunchtime revision sessions. These are a 30minutes burst of revision which is personalised to the students needs, so working on the areas they need to focus on to make the largest amount progress in an identified subject. They will all be delivered by subject experts in small groups of no more than 10 students so that they have real benefit. Starting these early now means less last minute preparation before we enter the summer exam season which will be upon us before we know.

Your help in ensuring your son/daughter go to these sessions and see the real benefit of starting them now is much appreciated. Students will be offered a light snack and a drink so they can nibble and revise without any hunger pains getting in the way! The session will run from 1.15pm -1.45pm.

I hope the information above is useful. We will keep you well communicated throughout the weeks in year 11 so that you understand how we are supporting your child but if you feel you need anything extra please get in touch.

Thank you in advance and in anticipation for your support.

Kind Regards

Anesta McCullagh  
Head of School