

### **Year 11 support following mock exams**

**Dear parent /carer,**

It has been lovely to see the students return after summer. They have amazed me at how well they have adapted to all the new systems we have put in place to keep everyone safe. The term has been a busy one, especially for Year 11, who have completed a round of mock examinations. They performed admirably considering half of their course has been taught through online learning because of the pandemic. Whilst we kept a rigorous track of online engagement, which we shared with you weekly during the lockdown, the mocks have quantified exactly which skills and knowledge have successfully been acquired by every student. You should have received a copy of your child's results and I hope you had an opportunity to talk to the subject specialists on Thursday during our first ever virtual parent's evening. We welcome feedback about the way it was organised, as it will help us improve similar events in the future.

### **What's happening next to support your son/daughter support towards their GCSEs?**

#### **Personalised analysis for every student by subject**

Teachers have analysed the exam papers for every student and produced a report for each subject to determine which key elements of the subject content are fully understood, partially understood or not understood. A personalised summary analysis for each subject has been shared with students this week. An example of one is below. The common skills and knowledge missing for all students is also being consolidated within lessons. These reports are useful to direct students to some self-study revision at home on the areas they need to work.

**Revision to be undertaken following on from Mock Examinations.**

Name:

Subject: Engineering Systems

**Topics to Revise:**

Components/ ohms law/ power

Components/ resistors

Testing circuits

LCD

Integrated Circuits

**Links to Revision:**

Components/ ohms law/ power - [pages 3-5, 8-10](#)

Components/ resistors - [pages 3-5, 8-10](#)

Testing circuits - [pages 11-12](#)

PCB Manufacture - [pages 12-13](#)

LCD - [pages 9-10](#)

Integrated Circuits - [pages 9-10](#)

## Additional personalised learning hours

Period 7 on a Thursday has been added to the end of the school day to allow Year 11 to be in small personalised sessions depending on where their biggest need has been identified. These groups and the subject focus will be frequently reviewed and changed as students make further progress and will continue until they have completed their final GCSE exams in the summer.

## Afterschool Revision Hub

After October half term, we will be opening the 'Careers Hub' in the evening from 15.40- 16.45pm for just Year 11. This is a quiet space and laptops will be available if needed for independent or group study. A tea, coffee and toast making facility will be in here too. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, students will need to bring their own mug, which needs to be identifiable as their own E.G. they have a specific patterned mug or it says their name or initial. The mugs can stay in the Hub area for their use only.

## Weekly expectations of personalised learning

We have purchased three online learning apps to support year 11 with their revision outside the class. These come highly recommended and with vast amounts of research to evidence the impact they show on improving progress towards higher GCSE grades. Please see below how we expect Year

11 to access and use these outside of lessons.

### Tassomai

This app is to support progress in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Students can log in here <https://app.tassomai.com/login>

If they have forgotten their password, they can reset it themselves through this webpage. The exam board we use has been analysed, down to the finest level of detail. Tassomai has then turned everything a learner needs to know into quiz questions that teach as well as test. Every question answered helps to build up a detailed knowledge profile, painting a picture of that student's understanding. An intelligent algorithm works out what a student knows and what they don't, continually adapting the content for each learner. Sometimes it will suggest a short tutorial video, offered at just the right time, and designed to supplement learning in a particular topic. Tassomai keeps learning, discovering more about what a student understands (and what they don't) with every single interaction. By using Tassomai, student's knowledge, understanding and confidence builds until they master the subject, helping them achieve their best possible results. Parents can also see how their children are getting on, where they're doing well, and where they might need a little help. ***The expectation is that students learn through daily practice.*** There is a set amount of daily questions, with quizzes shown at the optimum time for each learner and repeated occasionally to check that knowledge has been retained. Teachers are changing the content of the learning depending on mock and assessment data aligning it to the gaps they need to fill.

### Hegarty Maths

Students can log on here <https://hegartymaths.com/login/learner>

If they have forgotten their log-in to Hegarty they need to inform Nigel Bradford either by email ([n.bradford@enlutc.co.uk](mailto:n.bradford@enlutc.co.uk)) or in person so that he can reset their password. The app teaches, assess and tracks everything a student needs to know for exam board specification. It has well thought-out maths explanations with carefully modelled examples and all learning builds on previous learning using assessments. It tracks a student's progress and allows teachers to intervene and adapt lessons. ***The expectation is that students learn through weekly set tasks.*** These are set on a Friday and must be completed by the following Friday. The tasks are personalised to the students' analysis from their mocks or other assessments.

### GCSE Podcast

Students can log on here <https://members.gcsepod.com/login>

These are 3-5 minute pods of all the curriculum content needed for each GCSE exam along with quizzes to check for understanding. These can support students on the areas highlighted on the mock summary that they need to revise. There is no expectation to use this app, it is whichever resource students find suits their learning style. Some students prefer to read the revision guides and make revision notes, mind maps and others prefer to listen to the pod casts.

### **Weekly revision for Engineering and English**

We have given every year 11 an A4 revision notebook for them to complete two pages of revision notes per week. We advise one on the engineering exam (exam is January) using the exam booklet they were given during the Summer (also uploaded to Teams) and one on English. Again, their style of revision is down to personal choice.

## **Motivation/Encouragement/Communication**

### **Assemblies**

Year 11 continue to receive weekly assemblies where we keep them motivated about learning, communicate key dates and deadlines and keep their spirits high but focused on the end point.

### **Weekly postcards**

Every week, every staff member nominates students for recognition. These students receive a praise postcard in assembly. They can be for anything like superb effort leading to progress, a great piece of work or fantastic engagement.

### **Weekly leader board for online apps**

Every week, we will be checking the tracker on all three online apps and reward the top three students for total usage for that week and the top three achievers in assembly. We have a dedicated display board for Year 11 notices, communication and recognition and a leader board for the apps will be posted there every week.

### **Instant in-lesson rewards**

We know effort is directly linked to progress, so you may think we are 'killing them with kindness' - perhaps we are. Next term, teachers will be using an instant reward every lesson for the top 3 students showing the best effort. The students can exchange these at the end of the day for a little

‘sugar rush’ but the tokens are entered into a bigger a prize reward at the end of every half term.

### Parental Communication

We will send home a weekly tracker so you can keep in touch with how much your son/daughter is engaging with the expected online apps and weekly Engineering and English work at home. Please use this to praise or encourage their engagement with these. If you have any concerns or questions about your son/daughter please email Nigel in the first instance at [n.bradford@enlutc.co.uk](mailto:n.bradford@enlutc.co.uk)

We will also contact you if your son/daughter has received any of the weekly awards for the online apps and likewise if there is a cause for concern with a lack of engagement with these.

We will keep you informed of any news from the Department For Education which will impact year 11. We are told their exams will definitely go ahead and the start of the exam season has been delayed by three weeks to give some little additional time to prepare. I know how frustrating this may seem and that three weeks is nothing, but we will all do our best to make sure they are well prepared with the time we have. If anything changes, I will, of course, write to you.

### Work sent home for over half term

This term, has felt very full-on and students and staff do deserve a well-earned break, so please encourage your son/daughter to rest up for some of it. We have prepared packs which will go home with them on Friday with revision materials. The materials are past papers focused on the curriculum areas they need to practise and have already been taught, as well as some focused mind maps for English Literature. A little bit, done often is always the best recipe for success.

The papers and answer papers are used to best effect by adopting the following techniques:

1. Try the paper without any revision materials.
2. Use the revision guide to find the answers to any missing questions
3. Use the answer booklet to mark and self-correct the wrong or missing answers.

	Hard copies of work sent home to complete	Work on Teams
Engineering	Two exam papers to practice for each engineering subject	Grade boundaries and Answers to revision papers and electronic copy of the 2 revision guides that went home this Summer (the mock

		analysis and revision pages link to this
Physics	2 paper 2 past papers	Answer booklets available to self correct
Biology	Past paper questions and answers to self-correct on Aerobic and Anaerobic respiration, Plant Biology and Osmosis, Diffusion and Active Transport	N/A
Chemistry	1 paper 1 past paper	Answer booklets available to self correct
English	Literature mind maps	
Mathematics	Two topic tests of examination questions	Hegarty mathematics work set according to the Personal Learning Checklist

### Important Exam dates coming up

On January 12<sup>th</sup>, there are three engineering exams for all students. These are R105 Design briefs design specifications and user requirements, R109 Engineering materials, processes and production and R113 Electronic principles. Students are preparing in class for these but any additional work at home will help supplement this.

### Changes After October half term

Next half term, we will be adjusting the length of lunch slightly (by 10 minutes). Since separating lunches for different bubbles, we have found that we don't need as much time as previously. This will mean students will have a slightly earlier finish on an evening and this also helps with the timing of some buses which students need to catch. Year 11 will finish at 15.30 on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and 16.30 on a Thursday and 13:10 on a Friday. Year 11 students are of course welcome to revise in the 'Careers Hub' until 16.30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

An addition for year 11 after October half term will be a directed study period if, for any reason, a student has been removed from lesson. As you will be already aware, we have 'reminder, warning, removal' system in place to allow the pace of an effective lesson. It is very rarely needed, but if this does happen, we will contact parents by our in touch system to let you know that your son/daughter will be required to stay behind to complete any work missed from not being in the lesson.

I hope you all have a safe and lovely half term break with families and look forward to seeing the students back on their return.

Best wishes

Anesta and the UTC staff team.