

21st October 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we come to the end of term one and approach PPE's I would like to communicate with you the support we will be providing Year 11 with both in school and at home.

Attendance

The school continues to set an attendance target of **97%** throughout the school year as a minimum. In Year 11 it is crucial students attend school **each day** if they are fit and well unless they are deemed unfit to do so, for example significant sickness, injury etc. If your child feels they are unable to come to school for school related worries or concerns, for example exam related stress, anxiety or issues relating to their mental health, please encourage them to come to school and discuss this with either their form tutor, Miss Jane Davies or myself so we can address any barriers to them attending school swiftly and effectively.

Please do not hesitate to contact your daughter's tutor in the first instance, Miss Jane Davies, our Pastoral Support Officer, or myself if you have any questions or concerns about any aspects of school or your child's wellbeing.

Wellbeing

We would like to equip students with knowledge and understanding of how their brain and body reacts under stress and when facing challenges. Equally important is ensuring they are aware of and able to use a range of strategies which can support them through difficult times. In the new term we will be relaunching our C.A.L.M. project which has been driven by student feedback and research to provide students with strategies to help reduce barriers to exam performance. In previous years students have requested one-to-one support sessions, whilst others said they would benefit from specific strategies to help them manage their stress and anxiety levels during the exam period. Year 11 will soon be receiving a link to a student survey so we can gain more information about the support they would like to receive both in and outside of lessons. I would also like to remind students that there are a range of different strategies and techniques available on the school website which can be accessed on the link below.

<https://www.nsg.northants.sch.uk/page/?title=Wellbeing&pid=178>

Pre Public Exams (PPEs)

It is important for students to have time to plan and prepare for their PPEs, therefore, I would like to inform you these are scheduled to commence in December. PPE timetables have been published and shared with students this week. In preparation for PPEs and GCSE exams it is important for students to identify what revision techniques and strategies work best for them. These strategies are personal to each student and what may work for one, may not work for another. To support students, and you as parents and carers, I have produced materials to help guide them through this process.

Year 11 Revision Website

I am excited to launch the [Year 11 Revision Resources Website](https://sites.google.com/nsg.northants.sch.uk/year11gcserevisionresources/home):

<https://sites.google.com/nsg.northants.sch.uk/year11gcserevisionresources/home>. This website has links to GCSE subjects and will provide information to guide students to suitable resources which will aid their learning and revision at home. I am sure you will appreciate the hard work teachers have put into creating this website



which offers guidance to Year 11 students in school and at home. This is a valuable resource and I would encourage all students, parents and carers to take a look; this is one central place students can refer to when they are not sure how to start their revision. Teachers will also be referring to this website in lessons and when setting revision tasks for home learning. The link to the website can also be found on the school website under 'Students > Online Learning Links'. You will also find attached a guide of how to use the revision hub.

Revision Sessions

After half term we will be running a range of revision sessions to support specific subject areas and topics. Attached is a timetable of revision sessions for term 2, 3 and 4 to enable students to prioritise which sessions to attend. I will resend the timetable with any updates as sessions are added throughout the year. Sessions range from, highly targeted maths revision sessions, Science drop in, to support students with individual questions, Art stretch, enabling students to develop their skills further, Music coursework catch up, to support students meeting important deadlines and the list goes on.

How to Revise Guide

Revision can be a daunting task to start. Here is a guide I have produced to support students to get started with their revision, find a goal to work towards, as well as a range of specific strategies and techniques for students to trial. Revision is unique to everyone, what works for one person might not work for another, a strategy that may work for one subject may not be as effective for another. One strategy does not fit all, therefore we recommend students utilise a range of techniques and strategies to support different topics and phases of their revision. It is important for students to trial a range of strategies to create their own unique combination.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UFUqiZBevbxm4q4p7IXFfutlUseAj_rJ/view?usp=sharing

Revision strategies

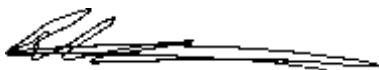
During tutor time students will explore different revision strategies. These strategies are created using evidence based research and have proven to be highly effective. All materials can be found on the ['The Learning Scientist'](#) section of the Year 11 Revision Resources Website.

Supporting revision at home

To help support your child at home I have attached **'The Parents' Guide to Homelife and Study'**. This booklet offers guidance on how to encourage a productive learning environment at home, as well as, advice and strategies of how to maintain your child's health during, what some may find, a stressful time.

I hope students take the time to rest and relax over the half term break as well as to prepare themselves for the term ahead. My mantra for all Year 11 students is *'With good planning and preparation we can make good progress. With support and self care we can be confident, happy and resilient'*.

Yours sincerely,



Miss Rachael Lissaman
Head of Academic Standards

