



AMPLEFORTH COLLEGE

*from* The HEAD OF YEAR 11

OLIVER BEVERIDGE

AMPLEFORTH COLLEGE

YORK, YO62 4ER

Friday, 15 March 2024

Dear parents and carers,

I am writing to inform you of the support that has been put in place and the guidance that has been provided to you daughters and sons since their mock exams. The Easter period is a key time for students to conduct independent revision in preparation for their GCSEs.

- Most students have already had a progress meeting with a senior member of staff to discuss the results of their mock exams and have been provided with bespoke advice to increase their attainment in their actual GCSEs. A small number of students were unable to attend their initial meeting, for whom an alternative meeting will be scheduled next week.
- During these meetings effective revision strategies have been discussed along with expectations for revision over the Easter period:
  - Students should spend 5-6hours per day, five days a week revising during the Easter period.
  - Frequent short sessions e.g. 25-50min with a 5-10min break after each session are more effective than lengthier sessions or cramming.
  - With thanks to the feedback from the Parent-Reps and the students themselves, we are aware that some students have found the use of electronic devices a distraction during revision. All students have been issued with paper copies of revision notes and have access to course specifications. Consequently, the majority of student revision *ca.*4-5hours per day, can be conducted without a device, with the final hour being used to access some of the digital support available.
  - Students should aim to revise in a distraction free environment and consider putting their phones and similar devices away during this time.
- Students have also met with their tutors to discuss their results and have been given guidance on making detailed revision plans.
- An online revision resource for parents offering advice on what good revision looks like and on how you might best support your daughter or son in making the most effective use of their time while away from the college. Details of this are in the weekly update.
- Subject-specific revision techniques, have been demonstrated and rehearsed in the classroom by teachers in timetabled lessons.
- A summer term in which all year-groups pull together to ensure an optimal environment for exam preparation and success. Activities which might have taken students or teachers away from the classroom in this period have been rescheduled to the other terms. The time left is precious, and we need to make the most of it.
- A “Recall Timetable” will also be developed, whereby the timetable is modified to create extra lessons as individual exams approach; we don’t want content to fade from students’

memories. As certain subjects finish early in the exam season, students will use all teaching periods to revise for the subjects that remain to be examined.

- We are also offering a centralised supervised prep during the Summer Term to increase support for students with their independent revision.

With the above in place, our Year 11 cohort have positioned themselves to do well in the Summer. Please do note that the final GCSE is expected to conclude on 18<sup>th</sup> June. We expect our Year 11 students will be free to depart after their final exam, but please be aware that the exam boards do hold a contingency period up until 26<sup>th</sup> June in case of unforeseen circumstances. We advise not booking holidays or similar until after this date.

Yours sincerely,

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Head of Year 11

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