

October 2020

Year 11 Support and Exams update

Dear Parent and Carer

A year ago we held our Raising Achievement Evening for Year 11, with a hall packed with parents and virtually every year 11 student but, unfortunately, we are unable to repeat it in the same format this year. This letter will provide you with an update regarding revision sessions on offer and act as a guide to point you in the right direction for other resources and support.

### **Raising Achievement – the road to success**

Firstly, I encourage you to look at the presentations on the website that replace our Raising Achievement Evening. This would be best undertaken with your son/daughter. Mr Herbert has recorded a presentation to set the scene for Year 11 this year. There are also presentations to help organise the revision schedule and get the best gains for the time students invest.

<https://www.budmouth-aspirations.org/our-curriculum/key-stage-4/>

### **Revision sessions**

I include below the current revision offer, which is also available on the Curriculum Section of our website. Revision sessions are open to all students and we encourage students to attend on a regular basis. There are suggestions and some guidance about planning your revision schedule in the presentations on the website. As an example, do not spend all of your time in your favourite subject area, although it may be enjoyable, it's best to plan a balanced diet of revision and there are probably other areas that you need to work on.

The Curriculum Section of the website also contains revision materials and support information for every subject area. These offer links to online resources and guides for the exams.

Revision also takes place in Tutor sessions, so students need to plan their schedule and ensure they have the resources needed.

<https://www.budmouth-aspirations.org/our-curriculum/key-stage-4/>

### **Intervention**

Each subject area has specific intervention sessions that are targeted, with individual students being invited to attend. These invitations are based on progress and students will focus on specific aspects of their course where a weakness has been identified. We have allocated over 2,600 hours of additional teacher support to ensure that any gaps in learning or progress are addressed. We strongly recommend that students attend these sessions which are designed to significantly increase performance in exams and accelerate progress. If you feel that your son or daughter should receive some additional intervention time, please contact the Subject Coordinator for the particular course and they will be able to provide more information.

As staff may be teaching until 2.55pm, we are providing free refreshments every day in the Avenue café from 2.30pm so that Year 11 students can have a break between lessons and revision/intervention sessions.

### **Exams update**

You will no doubt have seen the latest news regarding exams, with a 3 week delay and some amendments to components of the qualifications.

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As a school, we have taken the decision to remove the autumn term mock exams and focused on curriculum delivery to ensure students have the time to cover the skills and content needed. Based on our experience during the summer, we may find that between now and the 2021 exams the arrangements are changed again. One thing we can be certain of is the time in school needs to be used wisely and preparation for the single set of mock exams at the end of January must be thorough. The use of mock exams as part of the Centre Assessment Grades for the 2020 GCSE grades came as an unwelcome surprise for some students when they realised they had not put the effort in. At present, the plan is to complete the exams in the summer, but we have learnt that circumstances can change quickly. We will keep you up to date. The best advice we can provide is for students to work hard and gain as much as possible from their time in school, both in lessons and the revision and intervention on offer.

A presentation on exam changes and where to find more information about individual subjects can be found on the website section for Curriculum - KS4.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Hudson  
Vice Principal

Revision Sessions Yr11				
Activity	Dept	Day	Time	Venue
English Revision	English	Monday	3 - 4pm	Gallery
Yr11 Maths Revision	Maths	Tuesday	3 – 4pm	Hub Gallery
Yr11 GCSE Dance	Expressive Arts	Tuesday	2.30-3.30pm	E14
Year 11 Health and Social Care	Health and Social Care	Tuesday	2.30-3.30pm	B03/B09
German GCSE revision (TJJ)	MFL	Tuesday	After school	F27
Year 11 for GCSE Religious Studies	RS	Wednesday Week 2	After school	Huts
Yr11 Science	Science	Wednesday	After school	TBA
GCSE History revision	History	Wednesday	8:00-8:30am and Lunchtime	F06
Year 11 GCSE Music Coursework sessions	Expressive Arts	Wednesday	2.30-4pm	E21
Spanish GCSE revision	MFL	Wednesday	2.35-3.35pm	
Year 11 GCSE Citizenship Revision	Citizenship	Thursday W1	3.10-4pm	
GCSE Geography exam skills	Geography	Thursday	2.30-3.30pm	F01
French GCSE revision (CMC)	MFL	Thursday	After school	F10
German GCSE revision (SL)	MFL	Thursday	After school	F09
French GCSE revision (HJC)	MFL	Friday	After school	F11
Yr11 Revision for Technology Specialisms	Technology (with Mr A Walker)	Friday	3pm-4pm	D06
Revision for GCSE Business	Business	Friday	After school	Hub Gallery
GCSE PE	Sport	Friday	8-8.30am	Hub Gallery