

May 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: GCSE Examinations - timetable, masterclasses and breakfast sessions

As I am sure you are aware, the GCSE examinations begin next week. As part of the ongoing work to support your child we have put together a 'Masterclass Timetable.' The aim of this timetable is simple; to ensure that students are best supported and prepared for their examinations.

There are some key areas of focus within this timetable:

MASTERCLASSES

In order to fully prepare students for the upcoming exams, over the next few weeks we will be running additional sessions for subjects, to prepare for their examinations. Where possible these sessions occur either the afternoon prior (for morning exams) or the morning prior (for afternoon exams). This is not always possible in the middle of busy weeks with numerous exams, so we have included a copy for your information.

The masterclasses are **COMPULSORY**; students should be in school at these points and will attend these sessions instead of their normal timetable lessons.

BREAKFAST SESSIONS

Breakfast sessions are timetable from 7.45a.m. before morning examinations. These sessions will focus upon the crucial final messages and reminders for students to be totally prepared for their examinations, whilst also ensuring that students are entering exams calm and feeling confident. Sessions will follow the structure:

7.45 – 8.00a.m. - Arrival and breakfast - all students will sign in at the Farwath Centre on the morning of days where they have morning exams and morning booster sessions.

8.00 – 8.40a.m. - Breakfast Booster Session - students will work with subject specialists to remind them of key areas of focus and last minute advice, hints and tips for the exam.

Students will have access to tea, coffee, juice, cereal bars and hot breakfast food (bacon, sausage and egg sandwiches) if they arrive before 8.00 a.m. Once sessions begin at 8.00a.m. cereal bars and juice will be available in classrooms.

We cannot stress the importance of a purposeful start to the day before examinations and the need for students to attend **ALL** breakfast sessions on time, for a prompt 8:00a.m. start.

ENRICHMENT

Enrichment will still be running between 2.30 – 3.30p.m. during the exam season, however, during busy examination weeks there are a number of back-to-back enrichment sessions, to enable students to have access to their teachers and subject specific guidance the evening before the exam. These sessions will run from 3.30p.m. onwards. In addition there are a number of twilight sessions being run through the exam weeks, which students are welcome to, and encouraged, to attend.

We appreciate that Year 11 is an incredibly 'full-on' time for our students and a significant amount of students are working incredibly hard. However, any stress or anxiety in the build up to examinations will only be exacerbated further without effective preparation. Can we please request parents continue to support, chivy, nag and moan (at the appropriate moments!) in order to continue the momentum and ensure positive attendance at the additional sessions being offered by the Academy.

Pto.....

Students should be revising currently and the sessions in school are intend to supplement independent revision, not take it's place. If you are concerned that your child is not revising or you want further guidance upon resources to support revision, please do not hesitate to contact the Academy or take a look at the Revision Page on our website.

It will soon be prom, exams will be completed and, I am sure that you share my view that, I hope students arrive in August, opening envelopes with beaming smiles, as the hard work has paid off!

Can I thank you in advance for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'GSKM', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Graham Skidmore
Vice Principal