



April 2023

Dear Parents, Carers

In a few weeks, your child will be starting their GCSE exams. The following are some tips to support your child over the next few weeks and months in order that they maximise their GCSE outcomes. It is these outcomes that will allow your child to have **more opportunities and choices** as they move onto the next stage of their education.

As always, working together is the best way that your child will achieve their potential. Below is an overview of extra revision sessions that I hope parents will support. At this point, can I say, on behalf of the teachers who led on these revision sessions, **a massive well done to those that attended at Easter**. These sessions were productive, and the teachers were impressed with the attitude and work rate of those who attended. This needs to continue over the next few weeks and months.

A] General Information regarding revision and intervention

- **Exam timetable.** This has been sent via class charts, and it is important that your child plans their revision around this timetable when the exams begin. As a parent, it may also be useful to know what exams your child is doing so that you can both support and 'plan' with your child.
 - **Revision.** It is vital that your child is revising 2-3 hours each night in a quiet place with no distractions, for example, no access to mobile phones. At the heart of any effective revision is ensuring that your child looks at past exam papers and completes/attempts exam style questions. This will allow them to identify gaps in their learning/knowledge and they can ask their teacher for support/help.
 - **Additional Intervention.** This intervention will continue during lesson 6s until Friday 12th May as the exams begin on Monday 15th. A new intervention schedule will be shared with students and parents on a weekly basis once the exam season begins and will be based on the dates and times of each exam that week. Below is the plan for the first week of the exams and this includes breakfast sessions, form times, lesson 6 and some weekend sessions. Again, I would hope that parents support this and ensure that your child attends.
- Sun 14th May: **RE** lesson 10.00-13.00
 - Mon 15th May: **BIOLOGY** lesson 6 (3.15 – 4.30pm)
 - Tues 16th May: **BIOLOGY** Breakfast session (7.30 – 8.30am)
 - Tues 16th May: **ENGLISH** lesson 6 (3.15 – 4.30pm)
 - Weds 17th May: **ENGLISH** Breakfast session (7.30 – 8.30am)
 - Weds 17th May: **HISTORY** lesson 6 (3.15 – 4.30pm)
 - Thurs 18th May: **HISTORY** Breakfast session (7.30 – 8.30am)
 - Thurs 18th May: **MATHS** lesson 6 (3.15 – 4.30pm)
 - Fri 19th May: **MATHS** Breakfast session (7.30 – 8.30am)





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- **Half term break.** There will be a revision schedule for half term, similar to the Easter schedule. This will be in the middle of the exam period. I will share this in my May letter but I hope that parents will support this initiative.

Attendance at all intervention sessions will be invaluable! There are only 15 school days until the start of the exams on Monday 15th May.

B] Increased stress and anxiety over the next few weeks and months

As we approach the GCSE exam period, we want to support our Yr11 students' wellbeing. I know, as I have had 2 children of my own go through the GCSE period, that this can be a very stressful time for your child. It is understandable, and normal, that the level of anxiety and stress will be higher during the exam period. This may affect their mood, sleeping or eating habits. If this is the case they are certainly not alone and there are things they can do to support their emotional wellbeing,

- Talk to their teachers or Pastoral Head of House to ask for help to manage their stress levels
- Talk to friends and family to discuss their worries and concerns
- Be kind to themselves and practice their self-care or do some physical activity
- Get outside and stay connected with their friends
- Remember to take revision breaks
- Look after their physical health. For example, keep to a regular sleep pattern and eat a healthy diet
- Keep things in perspective

If your child would like to access support outside of school, Kooth.com is a free, safe, anonymous online support and counselling service for young people aged 11-18 years to support emotional wellbeing.

C] General Information

Some other points I would like to share;

- **Exam dates.** The GCSE exams start on Monday 15th May and the exams officially end on 21st June. However, some students will finish their exams before then.
- **Study leave.** Your child does not officially leave school until their last exam. However, the St Anne's official leaving date for Yr11s will be on Wednesday 14th June, after the Maths exam. All students will still have at least one exam after this date and some pupils will have more.
- **Behaviour expectations.** As you know, at St Anne's we have high standards and expectations. I am proud to say that the majority of our Yr11 students are mature and take responsibility for their behaviour and, over the next few weeks, I expect all Yr11 students to have a great attitude to their learning and their studies.
- **Uniform.** The expectation is that Yr11 students continue to attend school in proper uniform, have appropriate hair and wear no jewellery. Students should be focused on their work and failure to adhere to our simple school rules simply wastes their time.





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- **Attendance.** There is a very strong correlation between student achievement and attendance. It is fundamental that your child attends school right up to and including the 14th of June. This is a pre-requisite for an invitation to the Prom.
- **Prom.** This is a great tradition at St Anne's and is about the celebration of 5 fantastic years at the school. This is taking place on **29th June** at a secret location. Coaches will leave the school at an arranged time and more details will follow in due course. Some students are not going, and others have been sent letters regarding poor attendance and/or work rate. As I have repeatedly said, this is by *invitation only* and good behaviour is expected over the next few months as a minimum requirement.
- **Pre-exam Mass.** As a Catholic school, we will have a Mass before the exams so that pupils have the time to pray for and reflect on the impending exams. Hoodies will be given out to students after this Mass.
- **Strikes.** As you know there are more strikes planned for the 27th April and the 2nd May. Can I reassure both parents and Yr11 students that school will be open on these strike days for Yr11. I expect all Yr11 students to attend school as normal on these days.

Finally, on behalf of all the hard-working St Anne's staff, we wish your child **all the very best** in their forthcoming exams and in their futures. We all look forward to great individual outcomes in August. I hope that St Anne's has played some part in their lives, shaping them into lovely young adults with the work ethic, values and character to be successful!

A massive thanks for your continuing support

Regards

Mr Logue
Executive Headteacher