



Moorside High School

Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions

March 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

As you are aware, we are now just short of eight weeks away from the first GCSE examination, with just under two weeks before the Easter break. We are very focused on ensuring the best possible GCSE examination preparation and outcomes for your child and are delighted that so many students have engaged with the revision opportunities being offered in school and today we have launched our '30 Days to Amaze' countdown. The 30 days to amaze will give top tips each day to students, along with an opportunity for them to be rewarded for their hard work.

This letter is intended to give you an update as to what is currently happening in school for Year 11 along with some additional information about the run up to the final days of Year 11. As always, if you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Form Tutor or Head of Year.

Form Time Preparation

The GCSE exams are extremely important as they provide our students with a 'passport' for the next stage of their life. Regrettably, too many students do sometimes underestimate their importance and do not put the necessary work into performing as well as possible. All the research and evidence shows that when students start preparing for exams in February/March, they approach the exams feeling confident and with much less stress and anxiety and as a result, they do very well. To continue to support our students with their preparation, during form time this week, students will receive a session on the best way to prepare and organise their time over the next eight weeks. Every student in Year 11 will receive a blank revision timetable and a copy of all the support sessions on offer. (Please ask to see these documents and discuss your child's revision timetable with them.)

Form Time is a very important part of the school day. Not only is important information, such as exam information, distributed, but it also becomes additional learning time. During Form Time, Year 11 students are receiving extra Maths and English sessions. Students all have access to GCSEPod, it is slightly disappointing that not all students are taking advantage of this resource. It is proven that GCSEPod can help improve outcomes at GCSE with consistent use. If we feel that your child is now not accessing these resources enough, they will be required to attend a catch up session. Please can you encourage your child to attend school on time so they can benefit from these extra morning sessions.

How can parents help?

Many parents contact me to ask how they can best support their child. Being involved is a crucial factor in their revision and preparation. The following will be a great support to them:

- Ensure your child has created a manageable timetabled revision schedule on the template provided and that they stick to it. They need to build sensible breaks into the schedule, but the fact is that the next few months will be hard work and they need to do as much work as possible; as we all know it will be worth it in the end. As a starting point, we have told students they should be completing around three hours an evening, including homework time.
- Ensure your child is accessing GCSEPod regularly.

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- Continue to encourage, motivate and reward them as much as possible. Try to take an interest in what they are working on and help them with regular testing and checking. Revision can be a lonely business and they need to feel that they are supported and that you are proud of them for the work they are putting in.
- If you have any concerns, either general or subject specific, please contact the relevant person at school as soon as possible. We are all here to help the students and are very happy to advise and support you to ensure your child does the best they can.

Attendance

In the run up to the exams students are expected in school every day. During the exam period, students will be expected to attend school as usual, when they are not in examinations. When not in an examination, subject teachers will be in lessons ready to help with revision. If their subject has already been examined, their class teacher will facilitate revision for examinations still to happen and students should bring revision with them to their lessons – they have plenty! Every minute counts and this is a useful and productive period of time for examination preparation – successful schools support students through the examination season and again research shows results are better because of it! Students are expected to attend both examinations and lessons in full school uniform. If we have an unusually hot spell, similar to last year, we will make reasonable adjustments and students will be kept fully informed. As with previous years, to accommodate afternoon exams, the school lunch break will be moved to 12:05 - 12:55 to facilitate the prompt start for afternoon examinations. Please note, after school revision sessions will continue and students leaving an examination are more than welcome to attend these sessions.

Final Assembly & Prom

On Tuesday 28th June, during period 2, we will be holding a final Year 11 assembly for students. This will be the opportunity for students and staff to reflect back over the past 5 years and look forward to future successes. Students must attend in full school uniform, although they will be allowed to wear their Year 11 Leavers' Hoodies if they have purchased one. These will be given out in the sports hall during registration. Students will be able to enjoy a breakfast together period 1 and then spend time getting shirts signed, which is a long tradition. Students must bring a spare shirt so they can get staff and peers to sign this. Students will not be allowed to wear the signed shirt, so they must bring a spare. Students will be off site by 10:30am. They will then have time to prepare for the Year 11 Prom. The time for your child to really start to unwind will be at the Year 11 Prom which will take place in the evening of the 28th. Mrs Copestake is organising this event and has already been in touch with the details. In the past, a small number of students have misunderstood the tone and focus of this day and have acted in ways which has impacted on the learning of others across the school. They have subsequently not been allowed to attend the prom. We do not want this to happen this year; and we welcome your support with this.

Behaviour

Finally, positive behaviour plays a key part in order for students to be successful in their final exams. We expect all students to put in 100% effort in all lessons, attend sessions offered by staff and behave. As a school we expect to fully focus on the education of our students; therefore, we expect behaviour to be exceptional at all times. We will not allow poor behaviour over the next eight weeks to affect the learning of any student, nor do we expect to be



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dealing with friendship issues or issues with social networking in lesson time. We expect all students to be in all lessons, learning. With this in mind, all behaviour issues will be dealt with in a timely manner, consistently and fairly. Students will be issued with consequences if their behaviour falls below the expected level.

Being in Year 11 does have its benefits; the biggest benefit of all is gaining as many good qualifications as possible and being able to do whatever your child wishes to do when they leave. We are currently updating our website with a dedicated revision/study page for Year 11 and will keep you informed about this.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support I know you will give your child in ensuring they reach their full potential in the upcoming exams and for the continued support you give the school. We appreciate that these students have had a very tough few years, and we want to make their last few months with us, their best and most successful.

Kind regards,

Mrs H Ryles-Dean
Head of School

