

#Team Moorside KS4 Rasing Standards Lead Update

Raising Standards Half Term 3

Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 11 are just coming to the end of the mock exams, and their behaviour has been exceptional. We are so proud of them as a year group for demonstrating their resilience, dedication, and aspiration during their mock exam period.

Within this update, please find our Subject Newsletter which Subject Leads have created to target key learning for this half-term as well as key dates and revision tips for their subject. Additionally, please find the mock exam timetable and a pre-mock exam workshop timetable.

To support at home please encourage your child to use GCSEPod. GCSEPod is an online revision tool where students watch 3–5-minute videos which target key knowledge through pre-made exam specific playlists for each of their subjects. This enables students to quickly identify and target any gaps in knowledge on the go through the GCSEPod app. Research shows students who used GCSEPod the most received three grades higher across their subjects than predicted, demonstrating how invaluable this is for students. To access further information regarding online learning platforms and ways to maximise success with GCSEPod please see the KS4 Resources section of the website.

Students will be receiving their mock exam results during an envelope reveal on Thursday 15th February. During this session, we will be launching our CARE quadrant. The CARE Quadrant is an intervention tool which allocates students to one of our core values Consideration, Aspiration, Resilience and Equality. Within this, students will receive targeted assemblies and workshops to support their progress.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind Regards,

Miss Powell, Raising Standards Lead for KS4

Upcoming Events:

10th - 26th January: Mock

exam period

29th January: Mock

interviews for Year 11

15th February: Mock

exam results

February Half Term: Half-term intervention. Details

to follow shortly.

Intervention sessions:

Intervention Sessions Reminder:

During the mock exams, the usual intervention timetable will be suspended. Please refer to the pre-mock exam workshops enclosed in this letter.

Sessions from Monday 29th January 2024 are detailed here: Make it Stick Session Timetable

Week A: English, Maths and Science take priority.

Week B: All other subject sessions take priority.

Intervention sessions focus on retrieving knowledge and securing exam technique. Intervention points are awarded for attendees which feed into the reward system. Aiming for excellence? Attend four sessions a week for bonus points.

Suggested Revision Activities

Try the little and often approach. Please visit the <u>Aim High Schedule</u> to find six revision activities per subject to help consolidate and develop subject knowledge. For further support, please visit the link to here to our <u>KS4 Resources</u> page on the school website where you will find the 'Revision Principles for Parents Guide' and subject area pages with further resources.

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Mathematics

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. The purpose of this update is to inform you of important information and top tips before your child takes their mathematics GCSE this summer. The GCSE Mathematics dates are:

- Paper 1 Non-Calculator Thursday 16th May 2024
- Paper 2 Calculator Monday 3rd June 2024
- Paper 3 Calculator Monday 10th June 2024

I would like you thank you for your ongoing support this year. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like any further support.

Mr. J. Pinches, Head of Maths, <u>Joe.Pinches@consilium-at.com</u>

What we are studying this half-term: Each class will be following their own specific mathematics scheme. This is based on 'QLA' data from the previous mock examinations and content still to be covered. All students have been provided with a personal QLA linked to their Sparx maths account, this shows student which topics they achieved full marks in (green), achieved a proportion of the marks (yellow) or achieved no marks (red). These QLA's should be used for targeted revision, if you would like to be provided with another copy, please email Mr Pinches.

Suggested Revision Activities: We are now at the stage of the academic year where students have covered almost all of the GCSE content. It is time to put these skills in to practice, the best way to do this is with practice exam papers. To review content, students should complete the activities on the Aim High Schedule.

Questions to ask/ practice at home: The best way for parents to get involved at home is to ask low stakes quiz questions. You can do this by using flash cards, ask the question or prompt on the first side of the card and let the student answer on the reverse. Collins have released free GCSE flash cards for all subjects, these can be accessed in the following link: Flashcards

Links to Revision guides/ websites/ online learning platforms:

- **Corbett Maths Papers**
- On Maths Past Papers
- **Crash Maths Past Papers**
- Maths Bot Past Papers

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English

Dear Parents/Carers,

This half-term students will be developing their exam skills for both GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature. Students are strongly encouraged to be revisiting previous topics to secure their knowledge. In lessons, students will be consolidating essay writing skills for Macbeth and the Eduqas Poetry Anthology. In English Language, Paper 2 will be the focus. Students are encouraged to use the Aim High Schedule to support their revision.

Suggested Revision Activities: Using their Make It Stick revision strategy guide, students should be ensuring they understand, are able to recall from memory and can explain:

- The plot
- Key characters
- Themes
- Key quotations

For each English Literature text. Students have completed the course content for literature in Year 10. This year, lessons will focus specifically on exam skill and therefore students should be independently reviewing their knowledge of Macbeth, An Inspector Calls, A Christmas Carol, and the Eduqas Poetry Anthology.

Key Dates / Intervention:

- Thursday 11th January 2024: English Literature Paper 2 (An Inspector Calls/A Christmas Carol/Unseen Poetry)
- Tuesday 16th January 2024: English Literature Paper 1 (Macbeth/Anthology Poetry)
- Thursday 18th January 2024: English Language Paper 2 (Non-fiction Reading and Writing)
- Wednesday 24th January 2024: English Language Paper 1 (Fiction Reading and Writing)
- Ongoing: Monday Week A and B English Intervention on the English Corridor

Questions to ask/ practice at home:

To support from home, students can be asked to explain the significance of the context/character/theme in the core text. For English Language, reading both non-fiction/fiction and discussing events on the news will support. Using GCSEPod and the Aim High Schedule will further support revision.

Links to Revision guides/ websites/ online learning platforms:

<u>GCSEPod English Literature</u> and <u>Seneca</u> can be used to review content knowledge. In addition, please encourage using the <u>Aim High Schedule</u> for guided revision.

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Science

Dear Parents/Carers,

The students have taken brilliantly to our new booklet approach in science. These booklets give the students all the notes they need as well as tons of practice. This tool is allowing our students to get really focussed on the core content and get plenty of rehearsal needed for success.

Mr Deva, Head of Science Beejesh.Deva@consilium-at.com

What we are studying this half-term:

- Forces
- Atmosphere
- Using resources
- Organic chemistry

Key Dates/Intervention sessions:

Mock exams:

- Friday 12th January 2024: Biology Paper 1
- Wednesday 17th January 2024: Chemistry Paper 1
- Friday 19th January 2024: Physics Paper 1
- Monday 22nd January 2024: Biology Paper 2
- Thursday 25th January 2024: Chemistry Paper 2
- Friday 26th January 2024: Physics Paper 2

Ongoing: Science Intervention sessions are delivered every Wednesday on the Science corridor.

Questions to ask/ practice at home:

- Use the knowledge organizer from the topics to quiz them.
- Work with them on their carousel homework read the flashcard question and get them to answer.

Suggested Revision Activities:

- Use the carousel study pack for Paper 2
- Use the question booklets which are linked below.
- Use the GCSE revision links sheet which are linked below.

Links to Revision guides/ websites/ online learning platforms:

For the above links, please visit the '<u>Science Area</u>. For further revision, use the link here: <u>Revision Videos and</u> Practice Materials

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Geography

Dear Parents/Carers,

Please see below guidance to support students as we enter the penultimate term of their GCSE Geography studies. Thank you for your support so far. Please can we ask that you encourage your child to attend revision sessions that are put on by staff in the department. These are on Monday and Thursday after school in week B. The Monday session is an open-door session where all students are invited. The Thursday sessions are targeted and students who are in the targeted group will have received a letter letting them know they should attend.

Miss Birnie, Head of Geography Katie.Birnie@consilium-at.com

What we are studying this half-term:

After mock exams, students will be completing the Living World topic which was started prior to the Christmas break. Next, students will study Rivers which is the final topic before starting revision. Students may wish to use pre-learning techniques to research this topic beforehand using GCSEPod.

Suggested Revision Activities:

- A revision list has been provided for the mock exams on ClassCharts.
- Create flash cards/mind maps on each topic.
- Answer practice questions in the revision guide.
- Self-Quiz using links below.

Key Dates:

- Monday 15th January 2024: Paper 1 Mock Exam
- Tuesday 23rd January 2024: Paper 2 Mock Exam
- Ongoing: Monday Week B Geography intervention B208

Questions to ask/ practice at home:

Test your child's knowledge through their flashcards.

Encourage your child to watch or read any news on river flooding and ask them why this might be happening.

Links to Revision guides/ websites/ online learning platforms:

Revise content: <u>Internet Geography</u> and <u>GCSEPod</u> and <u>Seneca</u>

• Self-Quiz: <u>BBC Bitesize</u>

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Spanish

Dear Parents/Carers,

In Spanish, students have now completed the teaching of the exam content. After the mock exams, they will continue to prepare for their Speaking and Writing exams.

Mrs Mellor, Head of Modern Foreign Languages Jennifer. Mellor@consilium-at.com

Content students will need to revise:

Unit 1 Me, my family, and friends

Unit 3 Free time activities

Unit 5 Home, town, neighbourhood, and region

Unit 7 Global issues

Unit 9 My studies

Unit 11 Post 16 education

Unit 2 Technology in everyday life

Unit 4 Customs and festivals

Unit 6 Social issues

Unit 8 Travel and tourism

Unit 10 Life at school

Unit 12 Jobs, careers, and ambitions

Key Dates/Intervention:

- Wednesday 10th January: Spanish Writing
- Monday 22nd January: Spanish Reading and Listening
- Wednesday 24th January Friday 26th January: Spanish Speaking. Individual timeslots will be allocated.
- Ongoing: Spanish Intervention on Mondays Week B in A205 with Mrs Mellor

Suggested Revision Activities:

Students have prepared revision cards with paragraphs they can practise saying and writing using prompts. They should practice writing using the first letter of every word as a prompt. The mini whiteboard provided in the Make it Stick pack is great for this, but scrap paper works as well! To support from home, you can ask them the questions on their cards and see if they can give you an answer similar to the one on the card.

Students have revision workbooks which they complete questions from each week. They need to annotate the books with words they do not know. They can use an online dictionary to help.

Links to Revision guides/ websites/ online learning platforms:

Revise content: <u>GCSEPod</u>Self-Quiz Vocabulary: Quizlet

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History

Dear Parents/Carers,

Please see below guidance to support with their GCSE History studies. Please can we ask that you encourage your child to attend revision sessions that are put on by Mrs McGivern on a Wednesday on Week B in B202.

Thank you for your support so far.

Mrs McGivern, History Teacher, Emma.Mcgivern@consilium-at.com

What we are studying this term:

This half term, we will be completing mock revision for the topics of Crime and Punishment Through Time, 1000-Present and Whitechapel, Early Elizabethan England (1558-88) & The America West, 1835-1895. After the completion of mock exams, students will study Paper 3 – Weimar and Nazi Germany.

Key dates:

January Mock Exams:

Friday 12th January: Paper 1
Wednesday 17th Jan: Paper 2

Summer Exams:

- Wednesday 15th May 2024: Paper 1 Crime and Punishment Through Time
- Tuesday 4th June 2024: Paper 2 Early Elizabethan & The American West
- Tuesday 11th June 2024: Paper 3 Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39

Ongoing: Wednesday Week B Mrs McGivern delivers revision sessions in B202.

Suggested Revision Activities:

- Exam Practice: Mock papers collected from B202 / A110
- Self-Quiz using the Knowledge Organiser booklet.

Links to Revision guides/ websites/ online learning platforms:

GCSEPOD Edexcel History – GCSEPod

Use the following links for support by exam paper: <u>Paper 1 Crime and Punishment</u> <u>Paper 2 Elizabeth The American</u> <u>West Paper 3 Weimar and Nazi Germany</u>

<u>Bitesize</u>

Revision guides: Eduqas Revision Guide, CGP Revision and Pearson Revision workbooks can be found on Amazon.

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Music

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide updates and deadlines regarding students' GCSE Music coursework and to provide support for independent learning.

Coursework and Lesson Format

Students should have handed their **Solo Performance Recording** and their **Free Composition Recording** last half term to Miss Hill. Students should have also completed the write-up for the **Free Composition Log**.

As exam content for the course was completed in December, this half term teaching will focus on revision to recap previous topics to ensure students are confident with the content for their written exam. At least one lesson per week will be dedicated to Theory and Appraising content and revision. Weekly homework will also ensure regular practise of exam questions. To find details of coursework deadlines and extra support, please see below.

Thank you for your continued support this year.

Miss Hill, Head of Music, keely.hill@consilium-at.com

Key Dates/Intervention sessions:

- Wednesday 24th January 2024 Music Mock Exam
- Friday 16th February Deadline for coursework,
 Ensemble Performance Recordings, and their Set Brief
 Composition Recordings
- **Ongoing**: Week B: Wednesday and Thursday evenings-Coursework intervention sessions in B211.

General notices:

- Students must attend intervention sessions to support with their coursework.
- Students are expected to rehearse their performance pieces at home.
- Weekly homework must be submitted to ensure regular practise of exam questions.

Suggested Revision Activities:

Students should use their class books, the Aim High schedule, and BBC Bitesize to review key content. Students should then use the exam practice booklet to complete exam questions to complete weekly homework.

Links to Revision guides/ websites/ online learning platforms:

BBC Bitesize

Aim High Schedule

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Classical Civilisation

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's hard to believe we are in the penultimate term for the first Classics cohort. To ensure your child meets their potential, please could you encourage them to be regularly revising, attending afterschool intervention sessions and to be completing independent study using the resources below.

Thank you for the continued support over the last two years. Should you have any questions, feel free to get in touch. Miss Powell, Classics Teacher Laura.Powell@consilium-at.com

What we are studying this half-term: In December, the Classics cohort finished the teaching of the exam content. This half-term, students will complete their mock exams in both components of the paper and this data will be used to prioritise areas of the course to consolidate before the summer examinations. Lessons will run on a 6-lesson sequence to ensure even revision of Myth and Religion (Year 10 content) and the Homeric World (Year 11 content).

General Notices: The Classics GCSE course covers a significant amount of content of both visual and written sources. To prevent cramming and to ensure learning is stored in the long-term memory, please encourage students to use the Aim High revision schedule. In addition, students should practise essay writing skills as well as securing knowledge of the sources. To boost their grades, students should read the non-prescribed books of the Odyssey using the copy they have been provided with.

Key Dates/Intervention Mock Exams:

Tuesday 16th January: Paper 1 Thematic Study: Myth and Religion

Wednesday 24th January: Paper 2 Literature and Culture: The Homeric World **Ongoing**: Intervention sessions ran afterschool in A202 by Miss Powell.

Suggested Revision Activities:

Students should use the 'Make it Stick' Revision Strategies booklet to support their revision.

- For Myth and Religion, students should be creating essay plans for each topic comparing/contrasting Greek and Roman cultures. They should also make their own flashcards to test the core knowledge for each topic which can be found on their knowledge organisers from last year. Electronic copies are stored on Microsoft Teams.
- For the Homeric World, students should replicate the above but instead of comparing and contrasting Greek and Roman cultures, they should be planning for the 'significance' of a core theme or character in either the literature or culture.

Links to Revision guides/ websites/ online learning platforms:

Students have been provided with a physical copy of Myth and Religion and Homeric World study guides. Students also have been provided with a copy of the Odyssey and the core textbook for the course. For content review, please view in depth content coverage here: Online Lessons and to self-quiz click here Classics Quizlet

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Computer Science

Dear Parents/Carers,

This newsletter aims to inform you about some key date and information about the computer Science GCSE exams. And keyways to support your child at home. The GCSE Computer Science is with OCR and the exam dates are.

The summer exams are due to take place on the following:

- Wednesday 15th May 2024: Paper 1 Computer Systems
- Tuesday 21st May: Paper 2 Computational thinking, algorithms, and programming.

I am proud of the progress our Year 11 Computing students have made and continue to make. As we move forward to the exam, I aim to ensure we maintain high expectations and standards. Thank you for your support over.

What we are studying this half-term: Year 11 have finished all Exam content prior to this half term and are now in the process of revision key topics, assessing current understanding and practice exam skills. Students are regularly assessed using mastery tasks, past paper questions and homework tasks.

The current focus for this half term is Programming and Algorithms, both can be studies at home or online.

Key Dates/Intervention:

Mock Exams:

- Wednesday 10th January 2024: Computer Science Paper 1 Computer Systems
- Monday 22nd January 2024: Computer Science Paper 2 Computational thinking, algorithms, and programming.

Suggested Revision Activities: Students have each been purchased a revision guide, which will be the key to ensuring their success. These revision guides contain all relevant topics required for the exam, and exam style practice questions. Students should utilise the 'Make it Stick' Revision Strategies to ensure their knowledge commits to their long-term memory.

Links to Revision guides/ websites/ online learning platforms:

GCSEPod and Isaac Computer Science to review content and to consolidate learning.

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GCSE Dance

Dear Parents/Carers,

Please see below guidance to support with GCSE Dance. Please can we ask that you encourage your child to attend revision sessions. These will begin after the mock exams on a Friday Week A after school with Miss Aitken. Within the mock exam period, there will also be a pre-exam workshop for GCSE Dance during R time.

Thank you for your support so far.

Miss Aitken and Miss Drinkwater

Kate.aitken@consilium-at.com

Laura.drinkwater@consilium-at.com

What we are studying this half-term:

Theory:

Year 11 have completed Section A and Section B of the exam and are currently working their way through Section C. Section C consists of 6 professional works which students must know in detail, paying particular attention to the dance style, stimulus, choreographic intention of the piece but also the costumes, set/props, lighting, and aural setting (music). Currently, we are studying 'Artificial Things.'

Practical:

Year 11 are in the process of devising their duet and trios. This is a combination of independent work and teacher-led work to create the choreography. In this assessment, students will be assessed on their performance skills including their physical, expressive, technical, and mental skills. The deadline for completion of these will be February half term where we will then film then in school in exam conditions.

Key Dates/Intervention:

Mock Exams:

• Tuesday 16th January- Written paper

Suggested Revision Activities: Students have each been purchased a revision guide, which will be the key to ensuring their success. These revision guides contain all relevant topics required for the exam, and exam style practice questions. Students should utilise the 'Make it Stick' Revision Strategies to ensure their knowledge commits to their long-term memory. Students have also been given knowledge organisers for all three sections of the written paper. Practically, students need to be practicing their routines at home to ensure their movement memory is concrete. Practicing this in front of a small audience will also help, as students are assessed on their performance skills, for example, their facial expressions, so parents/carers can give feedback on this.

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GCSE PE

Dear Parents/Carers,

In GCSE PE, we have almost finished the teaching of the exam content. After the mock exams, they will continue to prepare for Paper 1, Paper 2, and Practical Moderation Day. All video evidence for those students who are submitting video evidence in a particular activity needs to be submitted by **Friday 1**st **March**. Miss Aitken would like to thank you again for your engagement in the GCSE PE parent video information evening before Christmas, Miss Aitken has shared the resources and guidance from this with the parent email group. The Mock exams for GCSE PE take place on the following dates:

- Paper 1 Tuesday 16th January
- Paper 2 Wednesday 24th January

I would like you thank you for your ongoing support this year. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like any further support.

Mr D Higham, Head of PE <u>daniel.higham@consilium-at.com</u>

Miss K Aitken, Head of Year 11, and Teacher of GCSE PE kate.aitken@consilium-at.com

What we are studying this half-term: The class are currently studying the final topic of Paper 2 which is 'Ethical and socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport'. Within this topic we cover key themes such as sportsmanship, gamesmanship, and deviance. Following this, the focus will then be on exam preparation and technique, with specific guidance on answering exam questions using the assessment outcomes (AO1, AO2, AO3). Additionally, there will be further emphasis this half term on the student's practical performance, with final assessments in each child's chosen practical activities taking place, and preparation for the Practical Moderation assessment which will take place between March and May.

Suggested Revision Activities: We are now at the stage of the academic year where students have covered almost all the GCSE content. It is time to put these skills in to practice, the best way to do this is with practice exam papers. Students can access these via the Edexcel website or alternatively speak with their class teacher. I would also advise students emerging themselves further in the World of Sport- watching more sport on TV or reading blogs/newspaper articles to further their cultural capital and knowledge of other sports. Certain topics require knowledge of real-life sporting events and scandals, for example, in the Performance-Enhancing Drugs topic, students will need to know about cyclist Lance Armstrong and his use of banned substances in an attempt to elevate his performance. In the two exam papers, students can be asked questions on any sport that is listed on the practical specification list; thus, it is important students are familiar with ALL sports and not just the ones that they participate in.

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GCSE PE Continued

Questions to ask/ practice at home: The best way for parents to get involved at home is to ask low stakes quiz questions. You can do this by using flash cards, ask the question or prompt on the first side of the card and let the student answer on the reverse. Collins have released free GCSE flash cards for all subjects, these can be accessed in the following link: Flashcards. You can also help your child when questioning them by making sure that they can identify a point, apply it to a sporting example and then evaluate its impact on performance. Equally, as mentioned before, joining your child in watching sports on the TV or just discussing the latest news and events in sport will ultimately improve their familiarity and knowledge of sport which will benefit them in the written papers.

Links to Revision guides/ websites/ online learning platforms:

The PE classroom: https://thepeclassroom.com/edexcel-gcse-quizzes/

Hospitality & Catering

Hospitality & Catering Mock Exam will be taking place on Wednesday 10th January 2024. The Summer exam will take place on Thursday 20th June 2024.

Health & Social Care

The Health & Social Care summer exam will be taking place on Tuesday 7th May 2024.

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