

September 2019



Dear Parent/Carers of Year 11 pupils,

Your child is now in Year 11. This year is incredibly important and is a significant part of their preparations for their final GCSE examinations. This week the pupils have been hearing about the effect that good attendance has on academic performance.

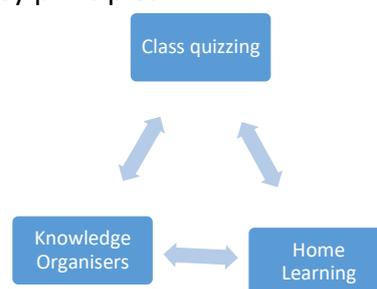
At The George Eliot school we strive to provide the best learning environment for all pupils in order for all pupils to achieve beyond expected levels of progress. Consequently it is of fundamental importance that students meet the school attendance target of 95%. Lost hours of learning time can have a detrimental effect on learning and achievement. It is vital that parents and carers encourage their child's regular and punctual attendance at school.

The pupils have also had explained to them why we insist on our pupils engaging with the School's approach to homework and revision.

We at The George Eliot School believe that a robust homework system plays a vital part of developing the whole child and ensuring pupils have the skills to manage their learning independently throughout their academic career. We provide pupils with a set of online quizzes each week that focus on key knowledge for their subjects.

The quizzing aspect of the homework is rooted around these four key principles:

- **1, Quizzes help pupils learn**
- **2, Quizzes give teachers' feedback**
- **3, Quizzes promote test expectancy**
- **4, Studying is more efficient after a quiz**



The interleaving aspect of homework is based around the theory that **repetition of ideas** is important in **building retention of knowledge**.

The pupils will also be expected to complete exam question responses (past papers.)

Past papers increase familiarity, pupils learn the type of questions that come up in exams. The papers ensure coverage of all topics and discourage pupils from focusing or revising the bits they like. This approach helps us to identify learning gaps and the child and staff are able to ascertain the areas they need to re-examine in class.

More importantly it actually reduces anxiety. Focusing on past exam papers helps remove the fear out of exams. The more past papers students do as part of their daily revision, the better prepared they'll be for the actual exam. Studies suggests that learning by taking practical tests have shown to protect memory from the negative effect of stress, which impacts on the receiving of information from memory.

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Please help us to help your child. Pupils will be set weekly homework on Doodle and you can support by asking them about it, ensuring they have a quiet space to complete their work and taking an interest in their work by getting them to explain their responses or you can test some of their quiz answers.

I would like to remind you that we have for sale at school a full range of revision guides and we sell these at cost price which is significantly cheaper than purchasing yourself.

The school website has a section called revision and you are able to access all the exam board information, supporting tools and resources and direct links to past papers. ***You can also see the revision programmes running in school term time and over the holiday periods.***

GCSE pupils are also given access to GCSEPod, an online programme that has short video pods for pupils to watch and listen to on-line or when out in the community. Please have a look, it is something the school provides to support all our pupils. The school also makes use of Heggarty Maths and this again encourages pupils to develop their Maths skills by completing exam style answers on-line.

We will be running a session for all year 10 and year 11 parents on how you can support your child in revising and preparing for their final GCSE's. A separate letter will follow with further details.

Please get in touch with myself if you have any questions or would like further support with how you can support your child with independent study.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Dee Stanton
Vice Principal



Mr Carl Hollick
Pastoral Lead for Year 11

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