



Kingswinford Academy

A part of Windsor Academy Trust

Year 11 Bulletin

'Time to be extraordinary'

Issue 1 2020

GCSE Exams

Mrs Wilkinson, Deputy Headteacher

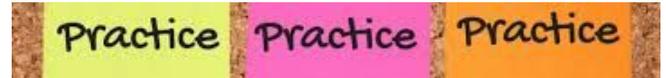
I am writing to you as we enter one of the most educationally important times of your child's life so far - their GCSE exams journey!

This newsletter aims to give you some key advice about how we will support your child over the next few months, as well as guidance that you can use to support and prepare them for this significant time.

Looking forward to the next milestone, mock exams will take place from the **2nd to 11th November**. Your child will have received their timetable for this today. Following the disruption to education last academic year and the adjustments to the examination format this year, it is vital that Year 11 students use the mock exams as a full practice run for the GCSEs this summer.

We appreciate that there remain some uncertainties around the exam format next summer, however there is every expectation that the exam process will go ahead for your children, with limited amendments. The government has been very clear in their determination for all students to complete their exams this year. However, any updates we receive will be passed directly onto you. If you need any support please contact myself, Mr Jones or Mr Wilkes at school.

Achieve Excellence



We have a number of initiatives to ensure the students receive the most appropriate support and intervention. One of the most important interventions is the 'Achieve Excellence' programme of subject sessions that take place after school to supplement in class learning.

Staff are offering sessions after school between 3.20pm and 4.00pm, covering all subjects. Your child may have been advised to attend certain sessions however everyone is welcome to attend any sessions they feel would be beneficial.

The timetable for these sessions is:

- Monday - Maths
- Tuesday - English
- Wednesday - Science
- Thursday - Geography, History, RE, French and Spanish
- Friday - Other options subjects

Attendance



Regular attendance at school has never been as important for your child as it is now.

However, in these unprecedented times we understand the added concerns you may have about attendance. We work very hard to ensure that safety is our top priority, so please do send them to school every day they are well: any absence will reduce your child's chances of achieving the grades they are capable of. If your child must be absent, or is required to self isolate please do inform Mrs Dickens, Attendance Officer and if possible, access their work via Google Classrooms that teachers are regularly updating and monitoring.

Parental Support & Elevate Education

Please do take the opportunity to sit down with your child and discuss how they are feeling. If possible check in with them regularly and see how they are progressing with their revision and managing the inevitable, and very normal, stress and anxiety that can present as exams approach.

To help you in supporting your child, we would like to invite you to a **bespoke virtual session with Elevate** that they deliver specifically for you, our parents. This will take place on the evening of **Wednesday 4th November**. We will be sending you a follow up letter with regards to the specifics, we hope you can join us. Elevate are a nationally renowned study skills training company who are working with our students to support their preparations.

In addition you should also have received an email advising of support information you can access, via Elevate Education. The dates and times of forthcoming sessions are below:

10/11/20 – Exams: Developing a pre-exam roadmap with your child to maximise their chances of success and keep overwhelming feelings at bay

01/12/20 - Stress & Wellbeing: Understanding your child's stress triggers, symptoms, and a tool-kit for stabilising during tough periods

Register here:

<https://get.elevatecoaching.info/uk/register>

Webinar Format: The webinars run **online** from **6pm – 7pm**. The webinars are live, where a senior presenter shares Elevate's key research and skills, plus answers questions so parents can get the specific tools they need.

To contact Elevate directly: Call 01865 989 495, Email info.uk@elevateeducation.com or go to uk.elevateeducation.com We hope you find these webinars useful in enabling you to support your child and reinforcing their study skills at home. If you need any support or would like to discuss any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact school.



Google Classrooms

All subjects have established Google Classrooms for students, where they have added work and key documents. Your children have the codes but here they are as a reminder:

Drama	si2jyx6
English -	md7axcg
Geography -	a2jmq47
History -	ad7r6y7
IT -	Know it all Ninja - Extra revision
Maths -	txyzbr2
Music -	um6c3ou
PE -	ycjouu
RE -	lthy5qo
Science -	p6ekeap

11A BTEC Enterprise:	o7rrhpm
11B BTEC Enterprise:	elzs4cf
11C BTEC Enterprise:	pqinzck

For other subjects, students are pre-registered on dedicated google classrooms where their revision materials are stored alongside their classwork.

Wellbeing

We are acutely aware that some of our students are experiencing a number of feelings that they may not have experienced previously including stress and anxiety. This is perfectly normal and may be for a variety of reasons, both personal and due to the current wider situation.

We are taking this into consideration and have put a number of strategies in place to support them. Form tutors, Heads of Year, SLT and the Pastoral Team are all available, should your child need to talk to someone.



Worried or anxious about exams?
Want to chat about coping with Year 11 about managing stress, workload, revision...?

One to one sessions with Mrs Maybury are also available on the following dates between 1.30pm and 4.00pm:

Monday 19th October 2020 in 11X

Thursday 22nd October 2020 in 11Y

To book a time, students should go the Year 11 Zone

Revision

Year 11 Revision Plans are on our website and will also have been shared with your child, by subject. On the Home page, they can be found under Teaching & Learning / Exams

Current Government Guidance: Taking exams during the coronavirus (Covid-19) Outbreak

Please use the following link for the current government information regarding exams, under Arrangements for exams and assessments in 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020>