

2nd May 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

**Year 8 Examinations: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June**

We are now on the countdown to the Year 8 examinations and are now well into our 6 Week Revision Challenge!

Please find attached 2 booklets to support Year 8 students with their exam preparation. The first booklet gives you and your daughter more information regarding the content of the exam and the key skills and subject knowledge that will be examined. The second booklet contains a spare copy of the '6 week revision challenge' documents including 6 x revision timetables and a number of 'learning jotters' to help students plan and undertake their revision. All students have received a copy of the 6 Week Challenge booklet during tutor time.

In my recent assembly I highlighted a number of techniques that students should use to help them revise:

**Spaced practice** - the greater the planning and preparation given to creating revision timetables the more time students have to learn the content. In addition, it gives students the time to break large units down into more manageable bite-size content. Hence why we have created the 6 Week challenge!

**Interleaving** - students study a topic for up to 20 minutes. They then take a short break and study another topic for 20 minutes. After another short break, they write down everything that they have learnt in both the 20 min sessions. This will build up the content stored and help to identify any gaps in their learning.

**Dual coding** - students take a topic and change it into diagrams, pictures, mind maps etc. We recall these much easier than written text, hence why we can remember faces but not always names!

**Retrieval Practice** - students put away their books and write/sketch everything they can remember no matter how great or small. This will help to again identify any gaps in learning - if they do not know it or cannot remember it, use the techniques above to help it sink in.

As a parent/carer we ask you to support your daughter by ensuring that she revises and prepares for her examinations in a manner appropriate for her year group.

Examples of how you might assist include:

- Help with creation of a revision timetable and ensure there are breaks included. This can reduce panic and last minute 'cramming' of subject content.
- Please encourage your daughter to use the revision techniques above and ask questions about the techniques she has learnt

- Check the Mastery Sheets in her books and ask your daughter questions about the content of her exercise book, in particular the areas she has been revising. Where there are gaps, encourage her to speak to her class teacher.
- Ask your daughter to teach you the content of the exam in detail. Studies have shown that when we teach others we are more likely to learn something ourselves and develop our understanding further.
- Ensure your daughter has the required equipment for her exam. Your daughter may require specific equipment for certain examinations e.g. a calculator for maths. Subject teachers will inform students about any specific requirements for their exams
- Access websites with your daughter that are contained in the revision booklet attached
- Remove any items that can distract your daughter and encourage your daughter to study hard for 20 minutes without distraction and then take a break. Studies have shown that this technique is far more productive than lengthy revision sessions.
- Ensure your daughter gets plenty of rest and eats well during the examination period
- Discuss the exams with your daughter and help to alleviate any stress

The results will be available on Go 4 Schools on Friday 20th June. If you have any subject specific questions about these examinations then please speak directly to your daughter's class teacher. For all other queries please do not hesitate to contact your daughter's Head of year, Ms Holmes.

I hope you will find this information useful and I wish your daughter all the best in her forthcoming examinations.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Devenney  
Deputy Headteacher

