

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Dear Parents and carers

**Re: Preparations for the Year 11 Mocks on January 17<sup>th</sup> – January 31<sup>st</sup>**

We have recently met at parents' evening and discussed the steps needed to ensure your sons and daughters achieves the best they can at this stage in Year 11. This is really important because:

- Progress from the last report will really give your child a boost. Success breeds success, progress leads to further progress.
- The grades from the mocks will identify the next steps they need to take and together we can then focus on the areas that will help them most.

Some important reminders for you and your child:

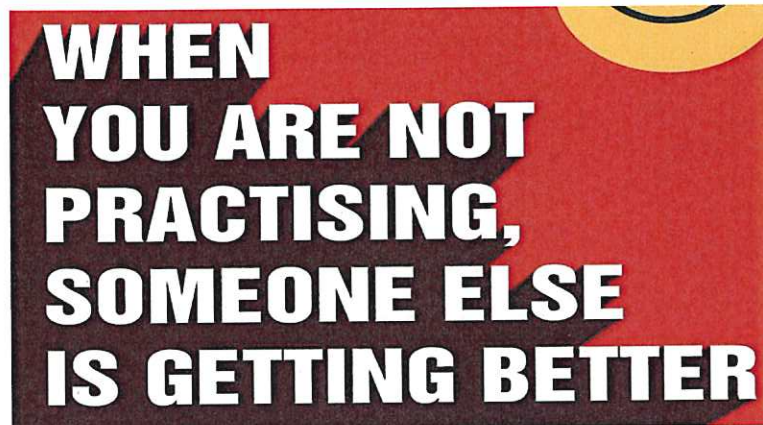
- All the revision work for each department is now on our school website in the section entitled [quality of education/revision guides](#). Therefore, if they cannot find or lose the hard copies they can access this work online.
- The revision work is part of a **four-week programme**: the two-week holiday and the two weeks in January before the mocks.
- Your son or daughter should also have functioning logins for Hegarty maths and we have proved to them that the more hours they spend on Hegarty the higher mark they will secure in their mocks and summer GCSEs. If they have **any** issues with their 'logins' they have until the end of term to ask for a new one.
- We have shared our advice through assemblies and tutor time on how both to revise and how to structure the revision to be most effective:-
  - i) Over the holidays they should not be revising all day, every day as this is not productive and often leads to wasted time as concentration levels fall.
  - ii) They need to divide their time into the three R's
    - **Revise**
    - **Reward**
    - **Recharge**
  - iii) Be clear what days over Christmas they will not work
  - iv) During their focussed revision sessions all **mobile phones should be kept outside the room they are revising in!** They are a massive distraction and not a good vehicle for revision – **the PC or laptop works for online revision not a mobile.**
  - v) At the end of each block give themselves a reward, some time on social media, refreshments, a chat, one episode on Netflix. These are not long events but enough time to let the brain refresh and for your child to feel pleased with their accomplishment.

- vi) There will be times when your son or daughter needs to recharge meet friends, play a sport, go to gym, watch something on Netflix. These should be programed in to their holiday revision time but in a sensible planned way.
- vii) Never let them give up because the tasks seems too great. It isn't and will get considerable easier if they put in a concerted 4-6 hours a day (this can vary from day to day and must include breaks).

Finally we have talked about the key issues of:

- Memorising and quizzing themselves on what they have learned
- Practising they key areas that they find hard (not the bits they already get i.e. finding which bit of maths on paper 1 they struggle with and practising lots of questions for that topic).
- The final strand, and not to be put first, are the completion of practice papers

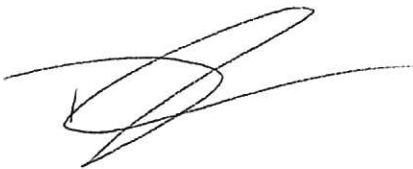
Mr McEwen shared this key piece of advice with all year 11 in assembly this week:



I hope you recognise the thought and planning that we have put in place to ensure your son or daughter achieves the best that they can be in their mocks and then aim even higher for the real exams.

Thank you for supporting your child through this challenging time, we are all thinking of their futures.

With every good wish,



Tim Dainty  
Principal  
Ark Evelyn Grace Academy