

April 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you and your families are well. As we approach the Summer Exams, I would like to share a range of information with you designed to maintain the high expectations we all have for the students and to provide the high level of support they need to be successful. **Please refer to the emailed version of this letter to access all the attachments referred to below.**

Data Cycle 9

Please find attached the latest cycle data information for your son/daughter. The data cycle is used to track students' progress and target support and intervention where needed. This is the last time teachers will make predictions before the final exams and they have been informed by the recent Synoptic Exams, about which students continue to receive feedback.

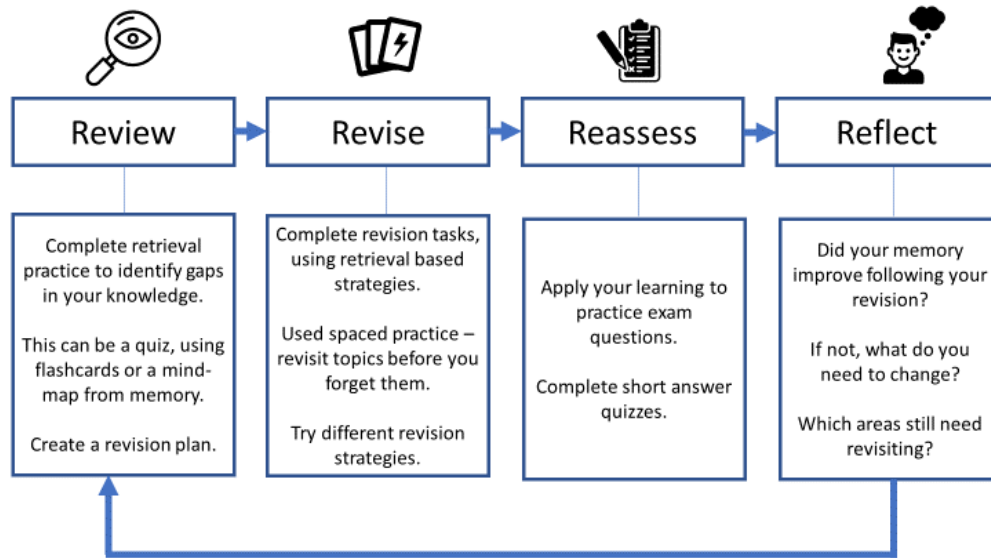
There is still time for students to make significant progress before the exams, and they should continue to talk to their teachers to seek advice on what they need to keep doing well and what they need to do to improve.

Students who sat real Btec exams in February in Health & Social Care, Business Studies or ICT will receive their results for these exams next week. If these results change any of our predictions we will send you an updated report.

High Expectations

Last week we had a Year 11 assembly led by the Post 16 Team. This explored the importance of maximising performance in every subject, regardless of whether this is "needed" for students' next steps. Sometimes students tell us "I only need grade 4s to get onto the course" when they are capable of achieving far higher. The assembly was designed to help students see the bigger picture – to a time when they are writing CVs – and to motivate them to do the very best they can for the remainder of the year. Some key slides from this assembly are attached.

To help them achieve their potential, they should follow the following model in each of their subjects:



High Support

Last week we also had a virtual assembly with the NHS Mental Health Support Team, supporting students as exam stresses and anxieties rise. Some key information from this assembly is also attached.

In addition, this week tutors are working with students to create a revision timetable for the Easter holidays and beyond. It is important that students balance their time between revision, recreation and rest. We have previously shared the following advice with you:

- Where possible, students should have a **quiet place to work** at home. If this is not possible, we can provide spaces in school.
- They should be supported in **managing distractions**, especially notifications from mobile devices.
- Ensure they have all the **resources** they need, such as revision guides, flashcards, blank paper, different coloured pens etc.
- They should take **regular breaks** during revision. Little and often is the best approach.
- Encourage them to get some **fresh air** during these breaks. **Exercise**, even something as simple as a short walk, is a great way to look after themselves.
- Ensure they **do not give up** extra-curricular activities that they enjoy. It is not effective to sit and revise all day every day.
- They should **eat healthily**. Healthy body, healthy mind. We are fully aware that many students are currently fasting.
- They should **avoid energy drinks**. They are not effective.
- They should go to sleep at an appropriate time. They should try to maintain their **normal school routine** during exam periods.
- **Test** them as much as possible, using their revision guides to help you.
- Encourage them to **revise collaboratively**, provided they are able to manage the distractions effectively!
- Follow a **revision timetable**. Tutors will support them in creating these.

I have also attached an example of a completed revision timetable we have shared with students this week to support them in the production of their own. Thank you in advance for your support in ensuring that your child has an appropriate plan and that they follow it over the Easter break.

Finally, we are running a bespoke Exams Programme for all students to support them through the congested summer exams period. Students' normal timetable will be replaced by extended sessions matched to the exam schedule. It is designed so that students are supported until immediately before each exam, but it is not designed to replace ongoing revision! Initial details of this will be shared with students this week.

Thank you as always for your ongoing support. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us, and I wish you a pleasant Easter break.

Yours faithfully

Mr D Moroney, Y11 College Director.