So this is it, Year 11, the start of the most important year, educationally, of your daughter’s life so far. This is when she has to grow up a bit, take responsibility, focus and make sure that she doesn’t waste a minute. Time is incredibly short….there are about six months left. In those six months, your daughter’s subject teachers will be supporting, guiding, cajoling and encouraging her to complete all her classwork, homework and Controlled Assessments, and then will help her prepare for written exams.

We have Mock Exams straight after the Christmas break…. Your daughter has been given a Revision Booklet to support her, and to help her prepare for these important assessments.

**Achieving Ambitions**

Supporting you in supporting your daughter

Our role in your daughter’s success is clear:-

◊ To provide engaging/challenging lessons
◊ To set homework to reinforce lessons
◊ To offer extra-support, when needed
◊ To motivate and encourage
◊ To NAG!!

However, we also need your support. Your role is pivotal:-

◊ To have high (but realistic) expectations
◊ To ensure that she attends every day
◊ To provide structure
◊ To regularly ask about homework
◊ To provide an appropriate homework space
◊ To attend Parents’ Evenings
◊ To communicate with school
◊ To NAG!!

Useful websites -

- AQA [http://web.aqa.org.uk]
- EDEXCEL [http://www.edexcel.com]
- WJEC [http://www.wjec.co.uk]
- OCR [http://www.ocr.org.uk]
- mymaths [http://www.mymaths.co.uk]
- Sam Learning [https://www.samlearning.com]
- BBC Schools [http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/11_16/]

**DECEMBER**

Wednesday 10 - Y11 Next Steps and Revision Skills Day ; Parents’ Information Evening 6pm – 8pm
Monday 15 - Christmas Concert
Tuesday 16 - Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 17 - Carol Service in Bath Abbey
Friday 19 End of term – 12.30pm finish

**JANUARY**

Monday 5 - Start of term 3
Monday 5 –Tuesday 13 Mock Exams
Monday 26 Mock Results hand-out

**FEBRUARY**

Thursday 12 - Ignite Day
Deadline for completion of all Controlled Assessments
Friday 13 - Inset Day; End of term
Monday 23 Start of term 4

**MARCH**

Friday 6 - Ignite Day
Monday 16 – Friday 20 - Languages Controlled Assessments
Friday 27 End of term
Monday 30 – Thursday 2 - Revision Workshops

**APRIL**

Monday 13 - Start of term 5

**MAY**

Monday 11 - GCSE Exams start
Friday 22 - End of Term
Mon 25 – Fri 29 - Revision workshops

**JUNE**

Monday 1 - Start of term 6
Friday 19 - Final GCSE Examination
Year 11 PROM!
Encourage your daughter to use the Revision Booklet to plan her revision. She should do 1-2 hours a night when still at school. During holidays and weekends she should revise for at least half a day each day. But she can plan her own time, so if she wants a day off, then she could make up the time on another day.

Talk to her; let her know that you understand that she needs to revise over the holiday and at weekends. If family events or activities are planned, help her to schedule her revision around this.

Make sure everyone else in the household knows that she is revising and should not be disturbed. She really needs to be able to concentrate and have a quiet space to work.

Help her to find interesting ways to revise; it will make it more fun, and she is more likely to stick at it.

- plan revision with a clear timetable
- plan for half-hour sessions
- revise specific topics in each subject, not everything at once
- go over each subject several times and revisit each one near to the exams
- use lots of different ways to revise
- read notes, and then write summaries of them
- draw diagrams
- sketch mind maps (spider diagrams) of key issues
- use different coloured paper or ink to emphasise
- use mnemonics (rhymes of word lists) to prompt
- use revision cards
- revise with a friend: ask and answer questions
- work through past exam papers
- answer guided questions in revision books
- record notes on an audio device, and listen to them back
- go for a walk with notes, read them through, and say them out loud

Before your daughter breaks up for the holiday make sure that she has all the equipment she may need. Has she got all the right revision lists? Does she have the text books and revision guides she may need?

Help her to get a copy of the specification (syllabus) for each of her subjects. She will need to know which Awarding Body (exam board) each subject uses. Encourage her to ask her teachers if she is unsure. The Awarding Body websites are very helpful. Spend some time to look on them, and see what they have to help her. She should use the specification as a list of everything that she should know. Put a line through sections of the specification that she is happy with, and get her to write additional notes in its margin. By the time of the exams, these specifications should look battered and well-used!

Past papers are vital for revision and they can be found on the Awarding Body websites for most subjects – make sure she knows how to do this and can access them easily. She should practice with these papers, and use the mark schemes to mark them. This way, she can find out exactly what the examiners are looking for. Also, there are only so many questions that can be asked—if she looks at enough past papers, she will have seen them all.

For some subjects there are excellent websites such as ‘mymaths’, ‘sam-learning’ etc. Make sure that she has all the passwords needed to access the different websites.

These mocks are vitally important; the more your daughter does now the better her results will be in the summer. She has about 19 school weeks left until the real GCSEs start ...............