



Year 10 Information Evening

Welcome to Year 10

5 October 2011

READY OR NOT THEY'RE COMING!



The exams at the end of Key Stage 4 are fast approaching! In twenty months from now, or 350 school days they will have finished. Year 10 students are being encouraged to do everything they can to make sure they achieve their very best in all their subjects. We would like to take this opportunity to inform you, the parents, about what you can do to support your daughter through this exciting and challenging time.

WHAT COURSES ARE THEY FOLLOWING? WHAT EXTERNAL EXAMS WILL THEY TAKE?

GCSEs

Most of the GCSE exams will be taken at the end of Year 11. In some modular subjects your daughter may take some of the exam papers earlier in the course. These can contribute significantly to the final grade. It is important for your daughter to find out if this is the case for any of the subjects she studies and, if so, what she will take and when. Controlled Assessments (which have replaced coursework) form another significant part of the overall assessment (see below).

LINEAR COURSES

These are new courses that have been introduced this year in Maths and Science. They are different to the other GCSE courses as they involve no controlled assessments or coursework and all the exams occur in the summer of year 11. Most students will complete the linear Maths course (at foundation or higher level). In Science those following double science on their timetable will complete either a double or triple science award and receive certificates for each science studied.

BTEC COURSES

There are a number of BTEC courses that students study at Hayesfield and as part of our partnership with Bath College. BTEC courses are different in that there are no exams at the end of the course. Instead 100% is by continuous task based assessment. At Hayesfield we offer a variety of BTEC courses instead of GCSEs. Currently we offer BTECs in:

- Applied Science
- Children's Care, Learning and Development.
- Health and Social Care
- Hospitality
- Horticulture
- Home Cooking Skills

WHAT ARE CONTROLLED ASSESSMENTS?

- Controlled Assessments (CAs) involve specific tasks that are completed in school and marked by teachers. There may be a number of CAs for each subject. The marks are sent to the Exam Board, who check a sample to make sure the marks are fair.
- Students will complete all their CAs by Easter of Year 11. However, your daughter will be completing controlled assessments in Year 10. It is important to be aware of the timing of these for the subjects she studies. Ask your daughter to see the grids that she was given to complete in her PSHEE sessions at the start of year 10.

WHAT HELP CAN BE GIVEN WITH CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT?

- CAs can only be completed by the student, who signs a declaration to say that it is their own work. They have to be completed in school under exam conditions.
- Subject teachers are always willing to give help – but do **encourage** your daughter to ask **questions** about how she can **improve** their work.



CAN CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT BE DONE AT HOME?

- No, but she will bring work home to prepare for her CAs and to support her sessions in school. This may take the form of independent research.

HOMEWORK

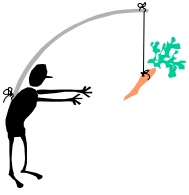
- The amount of independent study significantly increases at Key Stage 4. This can lead to problems with workload. We do try to spread work throughout the year, but problems arise when **students put off work until the last minute** or have **high absence rates**. Please encourage your daughter to **plan** her work carefully.
- **Two or three hours** should be spent studying each night. There will always be something to complete. This can include revision and improvement of work completed. Please do not hesitate to contact subject staff or Head of Department if you feel they do not have enough work.



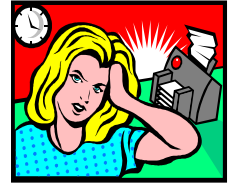
- You can support your daughter by taking an interest in her CAs and independent study – ask her questions about the task, how it will be marked, what she should focus on to improve the standard of her work, read it through for her.



IN WHAT OTHER WAYS CAN YOU HELP?



- Teenagers work in different ways; some will need a carrot, some will need a stick and some will just get on with it (oh joy!).
- The success of achieving good exam grades can seem a long way off, short-term goals and rewards are needed. Please do what you can at home to recognise and reward effort.
- If your daughter is working her very hardest, there is a real danger that she will become tired and may feel unable to cope. Please watch out for this. Make sure your daughter takes regular breaks from work, where she does something completely different (feeling fit is an important factor at exam times!).



REVISING FOR EXAMS

It is important to plan revision time into the student's daily schedule. Your daughter will prepare **revision timetables** in school during her PSHEE lessons and these could be put up on the fridge or in her room at home to refer to and tick revision sessions off as they are completed.

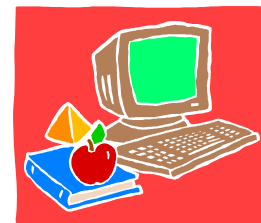
Revision isn't just re-reading notes – it's learning material by **re-processing**, summarising and testing yourself. Just reading through notes or exercise books is not enough, very few of us have photographic memories!

Encourage your daughter to use different techniques when revising. Make **posters** or **mind maps** of key terms, arguments and ideas. Use colour and visual images on these posters to help trigger the memory in the exam. Display posters in your daughter's room and encourage her to look at them.

Another good idea is to make **cards with a question or key term** on one side and the answer or definition on the other. Give your daughter time to review them and then test her on what she has learnt. Revision is happening in the making of the cards and it happens again when you test them on the sofa, round the dinner table, doing the washing up, wherever – it reinforces learning.

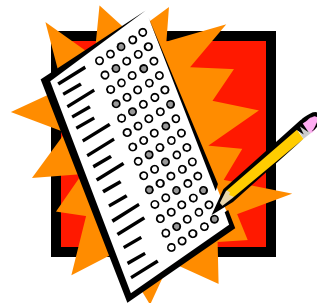
The right environment at home is important. A quiet study area is a good idea. Provide **resources** such as:

- Writing materials.
- Highlighting pens.
- Index cards, Post-it notes.
- Large paper to make summary mind maps.
- Subject revision guides.
- TV with DVD player (for watching recorded revision programmes).
- Computer revision programs.
- Controlled internet access for SAM Learning, BBC Bitesize, etc.



Take an interest in what she is doing – for example:

- Ask her to prepare 10 quick questions (with answers) on a topic as she revises it, and then test her afterwards.
- Encourage her to **talk** about what she has done (it will make her feel that she has achieved something) to you or to her friends, etc..... but no claims for the telephone bill please!



WHAT IS STUDY LEAVE?



There is no such thing as 'study leave'! The exam season starts earlier and earlier each year and we aim to run lessons for as long as possible. Students will also be encouraged to attend revision classes immediately before examinations. The school also has an open learning centre available for your daughter to access over the exam period. Experience has shown that the vast majority of students require support as they prepare for exams.



WHAT REVISION RESOURCES ARE RECOMMENDED?

There is a vast choice of published revision guides and computer programs that can be bought in local shops. You should be aware that some of these are better than others, for example they may not be specific for our particular exam boards.

- We can usually supply the best revision guides at cost price, less than the published price.
- The BBC website: www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize has an excellent range of revision support material (although do be aware that they have to cater for all the Exam Boards). Other useful websites are:

www.s-cool.co.uk

www.gcse.com

www.projectgcse.co.uk

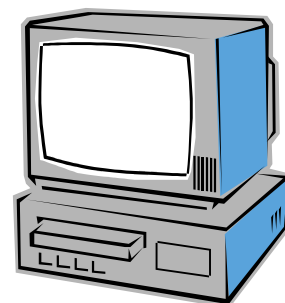
www.revision-notes.co.uk

www.englishbiz.co.uk

www.gcseguide.co.uk



- Past exam papers (& mark schemes) are available from the Exam Board websites: www.aga.org.uk www.ocr.org.uk
www.edexcel.org.uk
- The BBC also transmits GCSE Bitesize Revision programmes for individual subjects. These are a very useful resource to have at home. Please see programme listings for the full details. All programmes are on BBC2 and tend to be on late at night for students to record and replay at their leisure. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips/>



AND FINALLY.....

If you have any concerns about your daughter's progress please do not hesitate to contact Hayesfield.

- For general queries, please contact your daughter's Form Tutor or Mrs Brown.
- For subject-specific problems please contact the relevant Head of Department or subject teacher.

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