



THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL

A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

London Road
Buckingham
MK18 1AT

Tel: 01280 812206

Fax: 01280 822525

Email: office@buckinghamschool.org

Website: www.buckinghamschool.org

Headteacher: Mr A McGinnes

14 January 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

As I am sure you are aware, this is the last full term for your child before they sit their GCSE exams. This can be a very stressful time for students and we understand that there are many different factors that can influence this. I am writing to you to let you know about things that the school will be doing over the next few months to support your child in the lead up to their exams.

1. Exam timetable: Attached is a list of all of the exams that will be running for the GCSE students. Your child will not be sitting all of these exams, so it is important that you talk to them about which courses they are following. Their recent school report should help with this.
2. Revision sessions: Revision sessions are available every evening for the students (please see the timetable on the school website). Due to the number of subjects wanting to offer these, some subjects are being run at the same time. Therefore, it is important for your child to decide which will be the most beneficial to them. Many subjects also offer lunch time sessions for those students who are unable to attend after school sessions.
3. Revision materials: The Reprographics department stocks revision materials recommended by each department and many include exam-style questions for the students to practise at home. These are available for students to purchase at break and lunch times, and will also be available at the Year 11 parents' evening on Thursday, 31 January 2019. Please keep an eye out on the school website and facebook page for a full catalogue of our stock, which will be published soon.
4. Mock Exams: In order to give students a final opportunity to practise completing exam papers under exam conditions, we will be running a final round of mock exams from Monday, 25 February – Friday, 8 March. Students will then be given their results in a 'mock results day' on Friday, 29 March, following a presentation by an external speaker.
5. Pastoral support: Form time will be used to allow students an opportunity to reflect on their progress and plan ahead but, we feel it is still important to involve students in school enrichment activities, to allow them to have some respite from their exam studies. There will also be some opportunities for students to attend some intervention sessions during form time, to ensure that they are given the best support possible in the lead up to their exams.
6. Wellbeing: PE lessons will continue as normal until the students leave. Exercise has been proven to have a positive impact on a student's wellbeing, both physically and mentally.

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The Buckingham School is concerned that every student should have the opportunity to attend school activities/obtain equipment, regardless of their financial circumstances. As such, it may be possible to subsidise those students who would otherwise be unable to attend trips/purchase items. Please feel free to write in confidence to Mrs S Gallagher or Mrs K Bones at office@buckinghamschool.org, if you wish to seek assistance, or obtain more information about Pupil Premium funding.



7. Holiday time: All subjects will be providing students with structured revision activities over February half-term, the Easter holidays and May half-term (if still applicable). These will be shared via their Google Classrooms and you will be able to monitor this as well. We will also be using the students' Form time to ensure that they have a revision timetable in place for their holidays, to allow them to best use their time away from school. It is important to note that the school will not be open during either of these holidays, so we will be making sure that they leave well-equipped for a self-sufficient week or two of revision at home.
8. Pre-exam booster session: Booster sessions will be taking place before each exam that the students do in the summer. These will be short, 30-minute sessions, whereby staff go over some key things to remember and include in their answers before the students go into their exam. These have had a very positive response in the past and students have said that they have helped them in the exam.
9. The examination session this year finishes on the 14 June – In order to support our students as best as possible throughout their short but, heavy exam season, students will not be offered study leave. This is to ensure that they are with specialist teachers until their exams have finished and that they have access to all the pastoral support that we offer in terms of their wellbeing. Students will be expected to attend all of their timetabled lessons when not in an exam.
10. For subjects that are yet to be examined, lessons will be structured by the class teacher and will focus on exam technique and practice for that subject. Once a subject has been completed, students will be expected to still attend those lessons and the teacher will support them in facilitating a quiet study period for them to focus on their remaining subjects. Students will be expected to bring their revision materials to these lessons in order to make sure that time is not wasted during school hours. Any absences during this time will be recorded as unauthorised and may impact college and/or employment references in the future. We hope that you will agree that a classroom with a teacher is the best place for your child to be before their exams.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing your child succeed in the summer.

Yours faithfully,

Miss R Branson
Assistant Headteacher – Data
rbranson@buckinghamschool.org

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