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Tuesday, 22 March 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

GCSE Results can have a huge impact on a young person's life chances. Their significance is even greater in the current economic climate. It is important therefore that each and every student performs to the best of their ability and to this end we are writing to keep you updated and informed about a number of issues.

Starting Individual Revision

The summer examinations are much closer than most students realise and begin early/mid-May. We strongly recommend that all students begin their own revision at home **NOW**. All students can do this. Do not be misled by excuses such as, 'I haven't got any work to do!' or 'If I revise too early I'll just forget it!' If students begin early they can build up to the exams and have more time for the information to sink in. As for forgetting the work, when students do their final revision it will come back to them much more quickly – a bit like riding a bike, it's a lot easier to get on after a long break than it is to learn from scratch. Over Easter students should be revising **at least 4 - 6 hours per day** punctuated by short breaks. Students are also encouraged to attend term time after school revision sessions, many of which have already started – students can check when these take place, with their teachers.

Revision Techniques

All students have received specialist sessions on study skills and revision techniques in PSE. These intensive sessions have focused on how to revise. All students have also received a **revision guide**, including a revision timetable. Students should therefore be well equipped to press-on with their revision. Some basic revision tips are attached, but we also have revision materials on the school website under the '**Students – KS4 Revision**' section:

https://www.belperschool.co.uk/?page_id=856828

Updated Teacher Assessments

It is also worth checking final teacher estimates on the Cloud School Parental Portal. Where individual students are performing well you should congratulate them, but warn them against being complacent. Where grades are below expectation you should strongly urge them to do something about it now, it is never too late and GCSE results last a lifetime.

Continued ...

Exam Period Attendance Arrangements

1. **Last Day of Normal Timetable** - students will continue with normal timetabled lessons right up until and including **12 May 2022**.
2. **Study Timetable** - between **13 May – 27 June 2022** we will operate a “Study Timetable” where it is compulsory for students to attend special intensive revision blocks which we timetable around the exams (see timetabled sessions below). Obviously, students are not required to attend the sessions for subjects that they are not studying. These sessions have proved extremely effective and by being ‘blocked’ avoids dead time. When students are not in an exam or revision session they can revise at home. If this is not possible we will provide a study room where students can revise when not in a session or exam.
3. **National Contingency Day - 29 June 2022** – this is a contingency day set aside, “*should sustained national or local disruption arise during the June 2022 examination series*”. This means that any GCSE or A’ level exam could be moved to this contingency date in the event of disruption caused by some national or local tragedy/disaster/etc. This could be used given the Coronavirus, war in Ukraine etc. This date should therefore be taken as the last day of exams and it would be wise to ensure you are available for exams up until, and including the 29 June 2022.

Individual Exam Timetables and Calendars

All students have already been given an individual exam entry timetable Please ensure that students check this timetable thoroughly and keep a prominent record of when exams are, so they can arrive to all exams promptly. Further examination information will also go on the school website, detailing all the procedures associated with exams such as what equipment to bring, how to behave in exams, what to do if you are ill, etc. - see ‘Examination Procedures’ booklet on the website in the ‘Students / Examinations 2022’ section: https://www.belperschool.co.uk/?page_id=168

Results Day

GCSE exam results will be available for collection on **Thursday 25 August 2022 between 9.00am and 11.00am**. Any uncollected results will be posted after 4.00pm to your home address. It is your responsibility to make arrangements for receiving your results. This can be done in one of two ways:

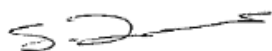
1. Collected by yourself. **YOU MUST BRING ID WITH YOU.**
2. Collected by another person, but only if they bring a letter with them authorising them to do so and that it is signed by you. They also need their own ID.

DO NOT telephone or email school to ask if the results have arrived or to ask to be given your results. The staff will not give information over the phone or by email as this will only delay the already lengthy task of gathering together results from several different examination boards.

And finally...

We hope that all students will strive hard to achieve the best GCSE results of which they are capable and work hard so as not to leave anything to chance. Remember teachers are here to help and wish your son / daughter all the very best with their exams. If you have any queries about exams or revision please contact your son/daughter’s tutor.

Yours sincerely



**Steve Davies, Assistant Head
on behalf of all the teachers at Belper School**

Revision Tips

Planning

1. Devise a revision timetable. What you will revise and when. Allocate regular revision slots which work well for you. Allow yourself reward period when you do no revision e.g. Friday evening
2. Allocate enough time each day, work in blocks with regular breaks e.g. 22 minute revision sessions followed by a quick break.
3. List topics to revise and/or obtain a syllabus, so you can tick off what you have done.
4. Choose where you will revise carefully where there are no distractions e.g. bedroom, library...away from people, TV, Playstation, Xbox etc.
5. If you have a job, arrange time off work if possible and refuse overtime during the run up to the exam period as well as during the exam period itself. If necessary give up work – the long-term gains far outweigh the short-term losses.
6. Plan to work in small study groups or pairs if you feel this helps. Even if you only meet occasionally to discuss problems or questions.
7. Get hold of past exam papers so you have these ready for revision time.
8. Plan to start revising early in the Easter break if you haven't already started.
9. Stay hydrated – drink plenty of water.

Revision

These are just some suggestions which may work for you. We all learn differently.

1. Lists of key points/topics/ headings for each.
2. Use highlighters, underlining or different colours on your notes.
3. Take notes on your notes – have a little revision book or folder for keeping these summary notes.
4. Use mind maps or spider grams to summarize key ideas.
5. Use MNEMONICS to aid memory e.g. *Richard Of York Gave Battle In Vain*...helps remember colours of the rainbow.
6. Test yourself and get others to test you. Parents can help here.
7. Learning off-by-heart – learn definitions or formulae off-by-heart or by repetition.
8. Practise question and past papers – ask teachers and use exam board websites.
9. Identify problem areas and follow these up with your teacher or study group.
10. Use Post-it notes to stick key ideas, formula, etc. around your revision space.

AND DON'T FORGET REVISION MATERIALS ON SCHOOL WEBSITE

https://www.belperschool.co.uk/?page_id=856828

Exam Period Arrangements – Study Timetable

Directed Study Timetable – from Friday 13 May – Monday 27 June 2022

The following sessions are compulsory sessions which fit around the exams but, students need only go to the sessions that they study. These make a real difference to student performance. Students will not be required to stay in school once the sessions have finished, unless they have an exam of course. Rooming yet to be arranged, but sessions will normally take place in subject area classrooms and session times show maximum session time length. There may be times when revision sessions clash (indicated by *) for a few students, where this does happen the student should decide which one will be most useful to them.

PLEASE NOTE: Hand in date for GCSE Art related subjects is 29 April 2022

Revision Sessions

Date	Time	Subject	Notes
Friday 13 May	9.55am – 12.15pm	RE	-
Friday 13 May	1pm – 3pm	Computer Science	-
Monday 16 May	9.55am – 12.15pm	Science (Biology)	If not in RE exam
Monday 16 May	1pm – 3pm	Music	If not in Comp. Sc. exam
Tuesday 17 May	1pm – 3pm	English	If not in Music exam
Wednesday 18 May	1pm – 3pm	History	If not in German exam
Thursday 19 May	1pm – 3pm	Maths	-
Friday 20 May	1pm – 3pm	Geography	If not in Business exam
Monday 23 May	1pm – 3pm	French	-
Tuesday 24 May	9.55am – 12.15pm	PE / Sports Studies	If not in French exam
Tuesday 24 May	1pm – 3pm	English / Media	If not in PE exam
Thursday 26 May	9.55am – 12.15pm	RE*	-
Thursday 26 May	9.55am – 12.15pm	Computer Science*	-
Thursday 26 May	1pm – 3pm	Science (Chemistry)	If not in RE exam
Friday 27 May	1pm – 3pm	German	If not in Comp. Sc. exam
28 May – 5 June	Spring Bank	Holiday	
Monday 6 June	9.55am – 12.15pm	Geography	If not in German exam
Monday 6 June	1pm – 3pm	Maths	-
Tuesday 7 June	1pm – 3pm	English	If not in Geography exam
Wednesday 8 June	1pm – 3pm	History	If not in RE exam
Thursday 9 June	9.55am – 12.15pm	(Science) Physics	If not in History exam
Friday 10 June	1pm – 3pm	Maths	If not in PE exam
Monday 13 June	1pm – 3pm	Geography	If not in Business exam
Tuesday 14 June	9.55am – 12.15pm	Media	If not in Geography exam
Tuesday 14 June	1pm – 3pm	Science (Biology)	If not in Media exam
Wednesday 15 June	1pm – 3pm	History	If not in Design exam
Thursday 16 June	9.55am – 12.15pm	French	If not in History exam
Friday 17 June	9.55am – 12.15pm	Science (Chemistry)	-
Monday 20 June	1pm – 3pm	History	If not in Food exam
Wednesday 22 June	1pm – 3pm	Science (Physics)	-
Monday 27 June	9.55am – 12.15pm	History	-