



2nd November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 11 – Raising Achievement and November Mocks

Year 11 students have made a good start to the year. This half term, they will be completing their second set of assessments during two weeks of mock exams and a series of practical exams which follow this. It is important that we work together to ensure that your child is prepared for these assessments as they provide valuable information about where your child is at during the first term of their final GCSE year.

The mock exam series will run from **Monday 6th November 2023**. A full copy of the timetable is attached at the end of this letter. This timetable also includes details of the practical exams that will also take place from **Monday 27th November 2023**.

To prepare for the mock exam series we will be running the following support sessions/activities:

Exam Specific

Raising Achievement (RA) Pre-Exam revision breakfast for all morning exams: we expect students to arrive for 8:00am. The RA team will sign the students in and provide snacks and hot drinks. The subject teams are also on hand with revision resources and guidance. It is important that students get in the habit of getting to school earlier to have breakfast and to settle their nerves. This way when they sit their actual GCSEs, they are familiar with the routine which in turn, ensures a calmer start to their day.

Pre-Exam warm up session from 8:35am to 9:00am. Students will move into a classroom with their class teacher to complete their final preparations for the morning exam and answer any final questions about the processes or knowledge required. Where actual exams are being taken in the afternoon, these sessions also include an early lunch to ensure students have a settled lead up to the exams.

If the exam is in the afternoon (1.30pm start), we will run a 60-minute pre-examination session, provide an early lunch and a final 30-minute pre-examination session with their teacher before taking the examination.

Raising Achievement (RA) Team

The purpose of the work of the RA team is to boost their engagement to have a positive impact on their overall outcomes. Our team are:

- **Miss Beales** - Assistant Principal, Raising Achievement
- **Mrs Gaines** – Lead Raising Achievement Mentor
- **Mrs Howes** – Raising Achievement Mentor

Our departments will also be putting plans in place for Raising Achievement within their subjects.

This will involve regular check ins, some small group work and may also involve some 1:1 mentoring with members of staff. This mentoring could be either careers based or academic. Following ongoing data analysis, students may be identified as a target student and therefore will expect to work more with the Raising



Achievement Team. Please expect communication around your child's engagement with the support that is offered to them.

Intervention

In order to support your child in the run up to this mock exam series, as well as the next mock exams (starting w/b 26th February 2024), we will be providing the following intervention:

- **Core PE** – Core PE time can be used for either BTEC Assessment catch up (PSAs), or for subject intervention. Students will be made aware if this applies to them. They must always register at PE first.
- **Period 6** – Subjects will be offering teacher-led Period 6 revision intervention sessions. A timetable will follow at a later date.
- **Study Hall** – Study Hall will continue to be run on either a voluntary or booked in basis. Students can attend voluntarily, and complete revision activities as guided by their subjects or the Raising Achievement Mentors. Students will be booked in if they fail to meet home learning deadlines.

Home Learning

Students are expected to keep up with their work on both Tassomai (English, Science, History and Geography) and Sparx (Maths) as normal, and as directed with their teachers. If they fail to do so, extensions will be applied before they are booked in for Study Hall. Other forms of home learning will also be set by subjects.

College Open Events

College applications are open for 2024 for our Year 11 students. Visiting these colleges is a really valuable experience when students are choosing their next steps. A reminder about the remaining & upcoming College Open Events:

- **Lowestoft Sixth Form College & East Coast College (Lowestoft)** - Wednesday 8th November, 5-7pm
- **East Coast College (Great Yarmouth)** - Thursday 9th November, 5-7pm
- **East Norfolk Sixth Form College** - Tuesday 5th March 2024, 4-7pm

If your child needs any support with college or Post-16 options, then please contact Mrs Richings jrichings@ormistonden.co.uk or Mr Cooper ocooper@ormistonden.co.uk in the first instance.

FAQs

Q. How can I support my child at home?

Your child has been taught a range of revision strategies focusing on the use of their Knowledge Organisers through the Denes Desirables (Mind Dumps, Quizzes and Collective Memory strategies). These are effective strategies they can use both in Study Hall at the end of the school day, or at home to support their revision for these examinations. Please encourage your child to use these along with the other revision resources signposted by their teacher. If your child has any doubt as to the content covered by the examinations, then please contact the curriculum leader of the relevant subject.

Q. Is attendance at the exams compulsory?

Yes. Attendance for these examinations is compulsory. However, if your child is ill, please contact the attendance team in the morning as a matter of urgency. All students are expected to come fully prepared to sit the examination. All examination regulations set out by the JCQ in relation to mobile phones, watches, all other electronic devices, and conduct must be adhered to, or students will be removed from the exam and risk failing the examination or be refused entry to subsequent examinations at the academy.

Q. Who do I contact if I have any concerns about exams?

In the first instance, please contact Mrs Gardiner KGardiner@ormistonden.co.uk or Mrs Osborn (Mental Health Lead) kosborn@ormistonden.co.uk.

Q. My child is finding the examinations stressful – what can I do to help?

We understand that examinations are stressful and can cause anxiety for some students. There is help, support and guidance available in the academy and on the school website, covering how to revise and how to deal with common feelings of stress and anxiety. We continue to support your child through our ongoing programme of tutor time activities and the assembly programme. We are also looking at bringing in external mental health support to speak to students about strategies they can use when managing exam stress and anxiety. If you have further questions or require clarification on any of the details in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of the Year 11 team.

If you have any questions or queries around this, then I am happy to discuss them with you.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "C Beales". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Miss C Beales

Assistant Principal for Raising Achievement