



12th February 2024

Year 11 Raising Achievement and Intervention Programme Spring Term Update

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 11 students now enter a very important phase of their education. They are just **eight weeks away** from the beginning of the GCSE/BTEC Summer exam season, with two of these weeks being the Spring Term mock exams and a further week affected by a wide range of practical exams. It is important that we work together to ensure that your child is aware of the time pressure that now exists. Whilst there is still time to make a difference, any day off school or time out of lesson can have a dramatic impact on their final results and entry on the college course that many of them have received conditional offers for.

Attendance

Evidence has shown us that good attendance will have a positive impact on student outcomes. This can be seen through the first mock exam period and by looking at students' predicted grades. A minimum grade four is what students require to access their further education. Students will be awarded Prom Points for every mock exam day they attend.

From the **Autumn mock exams**:

Excellent attendance is above 95% Average grades a third of grade better than students nationally Average Grade above a 4	Good attendance is 90-95% Average grades nearly a third of grade better than students nationally Average Grade above a 4	Average is 75-85% Average grade nearly a third of grade lower than students nationally. Average Grade below a 4	Below this... Average grades nearly two grades below students nationally Average Grade 2.0
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The Spring Term Mock exam will run from **Thursday 15th February to Friday 8th March 2024**. A full copy of the timetable is attached at the end of this letter.

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

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 then go with an expert 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.

Student Intervention Sessions.



Pathway 1 Period 6 Intervention 3:10pm – 4:10pm

Our dedicated teachers are running targeted intervention sessions (shown below) aiming to secure good outcomes for all students. Some students are more in need of this specific support and will be personally invited. Year Team may call you to ensure your child attends.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Travel & Tourism	Maths	Science	English	iMedia
STUDY HALL	Spanish	Music	Photography	Geography
	French	Drama	Art	STUDY HALL
	German	Dance	Graphics	
	Sport	STUDY HALL	History	
	Health & Social Care		STUDY HALL	
	STUDY HALL			

Curriculum Intervention

During curriculum time, students will now be able to access extra Maths, English or Science Intervention. This intervention is in place for all students and is part of their timetable.

Form Time Intervention

During morning form time, students have timetabled intervention with their form groups. This alternates between a personalised Sparx Maths programme, where students follow a personalised learning plan and targeted revision for History, Geography or Languages using their Denes Desirables skills. During afternoon form time, Year 11 students will continue to revise English Literature quote explosions with their form tutor where they will practice and be quizzed on key quotations.

Additional Support

Study Hall 3:10pm – 4:10pm

The Study Hall will continue to be run by the Raising Achievement Mentors, and students will be able to access their online Home Learning provisions as well as any revision resources. Students are always invited, and they can voluntarily attend on any evening, if they have not been invited to a Period 6 session.

Quote Explosion Club – Thursday & Friday Lunch Times (English Literature)

The English Department host Quote Explosion Club in B5 every Thursday and Friday lunch time. Students are invited to attend this club to practice their quotes, which is a key area of development for many of our students.

Upcoming College Events

As mentioned in previous letters, colleges have been running Open Events and we have been encouraging students to attend and begin to build the connections to help make the transition between Denes and further education as smooth as possible. The last Open Day in this season is at East Norfolk Sixth Form College, on Tuesday 5th March, between 4pm-7pm.

Q. How can my child earn Passport to Prom points?

All the revision and preparation activities have prom points attached. The more revision using the Denes Desirables they evidence for their teachers, the greater the number of points available. Attendance at P6 and Study Hall every afternoon is the easiest way to keep the tally of points rising, but any revision completed at home can also increase the points. Even if students don't attend P6 and Study Hall, they are expected to complete the work set by the teachers and therefore have every opportunity to secure the points needed to attend prom.

Q. How can I support my child at home?

From the start of the academic year, we have taught our Year 11's a range of revision strategies focusing on the use of their Knowledge Organisers through the Denes Desirables (Mind Dumps, Quizzes and Collective Memory strategies). I have included guidance on these strategies within this letter. These are effective strategies your child 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. If your child is ill, please contact the attendance team in the morning as a matter of urgency. We will take advice from the Exams Officer in coordination with the Joint Council for Qualification (JCQ) and decide a course of action.

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?

For all issues regarding examinations, you are advised not to contact examination boards/JCQ directly. If contacted, the awarding body/JCQ will direct you back to us as the centre. Correspondence on any aspect of a candidate's examination or assessment will be conducted between the awarding body and the Principal, Mr Donovan or Ms Frosdick, our Examinations Officer. In the first instance, please contact Ms Frosdick at rfrosdick@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.

Yours sincerely,



Miss Beales
Assistant Principal
Raising Achievement



Mrs Gardiner
Head of Year 11