

24 October 2019



Dear Parent(s)

In Year 11, there are 23 teaching weeks of school left before the summer exam series begins. Over this time there are various mock examination weeks, trips, visits and school holidays. My intention is to share some key information and key dates to ensure that you are fully prepared for the busy time ahead.

We have received a large number of queries from both students and parents regarding the amount of time Year 11 students should be spending on school work at home. Of course specific homework will fluctuate and will depend on the member of staff, the subject, the topic being covered and so on. However, there are NO students in Year 11 who can say they have nothing to do. Core subjects alone require students to be reviewing and revising content covered at the start of the course. For example:

English Literature - Jekyll and Hyde needs to be re-read and reviewed and key themes/ideas revised; An Inspector Calls is ongoing but needs to be read and reviewed. Alongside the core texts there are approximately 16 poems that need to be studied and reviewed.

Maths - Key skill sheets can be revisited and online resources can be accessed to ensure all content and styles of question are practised in full.

Science (Combined and Separate Sciences) - All three Sciences have covered the topics and content for paper one; this will include Topic 1 to Topic 10/11 that have already been taught and need to be revised and revisited.

In reality all subjects will now be more than half way through the course and the initial content will need revising.

This process of review and revision really needs to start now; this will allow students to ask for help and support in the last week of this half term.

Many parents are keen to help, but it is sometimes difficult to know where to start. I would urge you to head to our "One Stop Shop", which is a single point of access for a plethora of resources from each subject area, in addition to general advice and tips. All subjects have created an Independent Study Plan which provides subject specific revision advice, as well as a guide for how parents can help.

<https://sites.google.com/tgs.starmat.uk/keystage4parentsandstudents/home>



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In general I would encourage all Year 11's to create a home timetable for their work; they need to allocate an hour to an hour and a half for each subject and plan to cover 2 subjects per day/night. They should work for 20-30 minute sessions with mini breaks in between within the allocated subject study time. Try to encourage no working after 9 o'clock and to get plenty of sleep; I also strongly encourage guilt free time off. For 11 subjects this gives almost two full days that can be free of school work. It is vital to get the balance of study and free time right to maximise potential whilst ensuring a good state of well-being. Appropriate approaches will be discussed in life skills lessons and more detailed discussions will take place during form time with tutors and/or House leaders.

Below I have detailed some of the support and intervention available in school.

Support in school:

Access to subject specific lunchtime and after school revision sessions (see attachment);

Access to a calm, quiet and supportive workplace during lunchtimes (in S15) and after school every Thursday in the ILC from 3.15pm - 5.00pm.

Key dates:

Mock examination week November 11th - 22nd - an opportunity to experience the feelings and process of sitting external examinations as well as giving the students the chance to assess their current progress and ability across all of the GCSE subjects.

The students have received a timetable of mock examinations and will receive the roomings and seating information closer to the time. It is vital that any issues or concerns are communicated to our examination office, either directly or via email (exams@tgs.starmat.uk).

The Year 11's will also receive an assembly clearly explaining the expectations, protocols and procedures in regards to external examinations.

Following the two week examination period the mock examination results will be given out during a 'mock results day' assembly; preparing the students for the ups and downs of receiving a set of GCSE results.

More importantly the mock results will inform subject staff of the appropriate level of examination entry and will also be used to complete, post 16, Sixth form and College applications/references.

- (Ongoing) Post 16 Meeting with HL or member of leadership team. Focus on where students are? Discussion of current progress and steps to improve, Looking ahead and different Post 16 options- Over the next few weeks please encourage conversations with subject specific staff to discuss appropriate post 16 courses and options.
- Mock Exams - 11th till 22nd November
- Year 11 Parents Information Evening- December date tbc
- Sixth Form Taster Day - 19th December
- Parents' Evening - 8th January 2020

- Summer Exam series- 11th May- 26th June 2020
- *Reports - October, December and March Data collections*

If you require any further details, support or advice please feel free to contact subject leaders, classroom teachers or House Leaders as appropriate. These contacts can be found on the school website.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Punt
House Leader Calcaria/Senior House Leader Key Stage 4

Plan out your time

Decide a plan for the week...

7 days to include all sessions for all lessons/subjects.

Including guilt free 'time off'

Plan to work on each subject for 1-1½ hours.

20-30 minute slots with mini breaks in between

e.g. every Monday is Physics and Maths.

Physics: 4.00 - 5.30pm

Maths: 7.00 - 8.30pm

Weekly Planner (block style)

Week of: _____

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning							
Afternoon							
Evening							

The Best support at TGS

Planning bespoke, meaningful Intervention for all...

- **Thursday After School- Supervised self study provision in the ILC**
- **S15 EVERY LUNCHTIME - Supervised self study**

Planning for Success

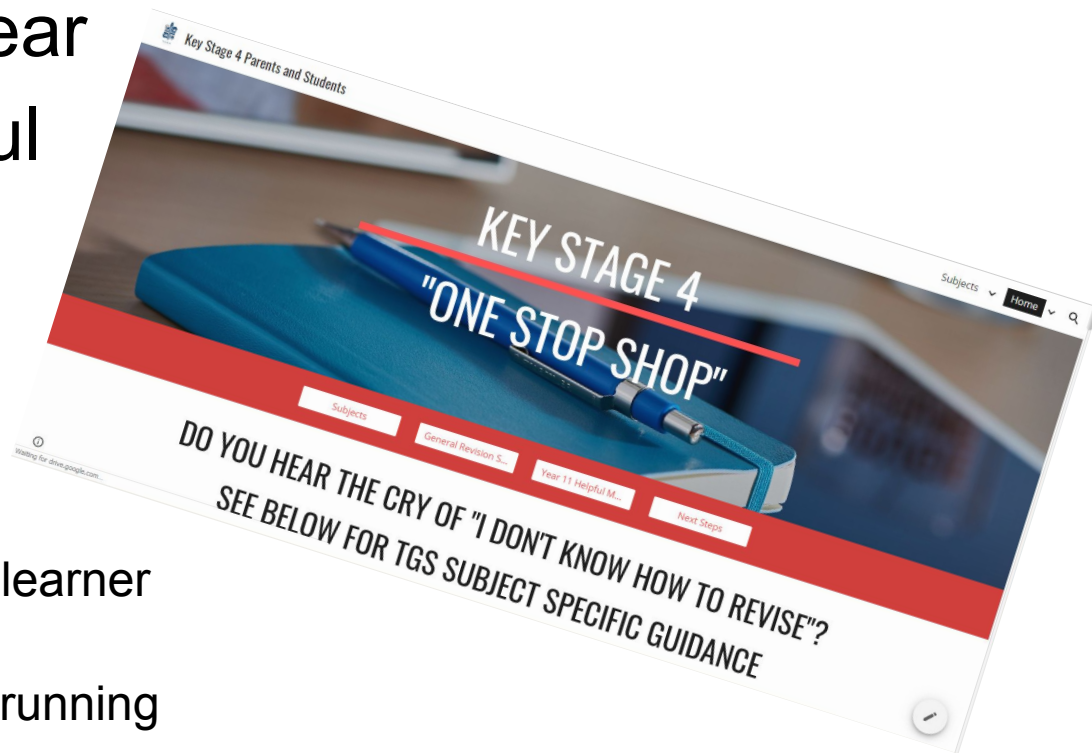
Key Dates for the Year 2019/20

- Post 16 Meeting with HL or member of leadership team. Focus on *Where are students at?* Discussion of *current progress and steps to improve*, *Looking ahead* and different Post 16 options- **w/b 30th September**
- Mock Exams - **11th till 22nd November**
- Year 11 Parents Information Evening- **December date tbc**
- Sixth Form Taster Day - **19th December**
- MFL Mock Oral Exam - **13th till 20th January 2020**
- Parents Evening - **8th January 2020**
- Summer Exam series- **11th May- 26th June 2020**
- **Reports - October, December and March Data collections**

Succeed

Useful Info...

- **'One Stop Shop'** for Year 11/10 - lots of useful information for all, including:
 - Starting to Revise (top tips)
 - Developing habits of a great learner
 - Extra sessions that staff are running



Useful Info...

- KS4 Independent Study after school on **Thursdays** till 4.30

KS4

iNDEPENDENT
S • T • U • D • Y



Every Thursday
3.15pm – 4.30pm

ILC

Year 11 Revision Sessions 2019/20

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch time	VLS (L17) <i>S15 independent study</i>	English (T27) RE History drop-in VLS (L17) French drop-in - L1 <i>S15 independent study</i>	PE (M20) <i>S15 independent study</i>	Geography (M28) Business/Economics French drop-in - L1 <i>S15 independent study</i>	German <i>S15 independent study</i>
After School				Key stage 4 revision session - ILC 3.15-5.00pm	