

To Parents of Year 11 students

Dear Parent/ Guardian

PREPARING FOR SUCCESS

As you will be aware the Summer GCSE exams are fast approaching - only five weeks until they start. Over the past few months we have put together a comprehensive revision/study support programme for all of the Year 11 students in the run up to their exams. In addition to tutorials and assemblies based on study skills and revision techniques, there have been, and continue to be, numerous additional support sessions available at lunchtimes and after school.

All of the Year 11 students have been given access to an on-line study guide containing many more techniques as well as useful information about websites, extra classes at lunchtimes and after school between now and May. I have included a copy of the information sheet students have already received containing relevant details of when and where revision and study support sessions are available during lunchtimes and after school. Students should also have received a Year 11 GCSE Revision Pack containing information on exam dates, timings and exam papers (an electronic version of this is also available on the school's website).

Students will also be able to access revision materials and helpful hints from their teachers by logging on to both the school website www.gshs.org.uk and the George Stephenson area of the North Tyneside Learning Platform at www.ntlp.org.uk either at home if they have internet access or at school up to 5.00 p.m. every day in the Learning Resource Centre. Parents may also access the platform using their son/daughter's login details i.e. gshs – forename.surname and their password.

Following proven success over a number of years, we believe that the best kind of support to give young people in the vital few weeks before their examinations is for them to remain in school for as long as possible where they can access the support and help of their teachers to prepare properly. We therefore expect students to attend **all** timetabled lessons right up until half term (Friday 27th May). After half term (from Monday 6th June) they must continue to attend lessons in subjects still to be examined, as well as BTEC lessons as they are fully coursework based and students' work can be improved up until the final deadline of Tuesday 5th July. Students who are taking OCR National courses (Business, ICT, Health and Social Care) must continue to attend lessons unless they have written confirmation from their teacher to say that they have completed all units and have been given a final grade.

Any free time students do have between these lessons and exams can be spent in one of two ways: they should either be working at home, with your support, or attending school to study with the support of staff here. If you wish to give permission for your son/daughter to study at home when they have no exam or timetabled lesson, please complete and return the reply slip attached as soon as possible.

When students have completed their final examination they may leave school. However, we do expect them to attend school at **9.30 a.m. on Friday 1st July 2011** to return their books and to attend a final Year 11 Assembly at 10.55 a.m. Students will be asked to register in the Hall first to pick up a clearance certificate which must be authorised by the school prior to them leaving.

On **Thursday 25th August 2011**, the school will receive all of the GCSE examination results. Students are asked to come into school at **10.00 a.m.** on that morning to pick up their own individual results. Any student who is not going to be able to attend on 25th August should bring a stamped addressed envelope to school so that we may post the results for them.

The next few months will be hard work and very stressful for the students. During this time they will need a great deal of help and support if they are to achieve the success that they deserve. Please encourage them to ask for help and support from their Subject Teachers, Form Tutors Achievement Support Coordinator (Miss Rigby) or Guidance Manager (Mr Mogie) if they need it.

Please do not hesitate to contact school if you have any queries or concerns.

Yours sincerely



IAN WILKINSON
Headteacher

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PLEASE RETURN TO FORM TUTOR

Name of Student: _____

Tutor Group: _____

I give permission for my son/daughter to study at home when they have no exam or timetabled lesson.

Signed: _____
(Parent/Guardian)

Date: _____