

ST. BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

incorporating

WEST CUMBRIA CATHOLIC SIXTH FORM CENTRE

ST. BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
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Mr I P SMITH

18th October 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

From recent parent meetings in school you will all now be aware of the demands which the new GCSE exam system places on our students. Increasingly, it is the work that is done outside of the classroom through independent study, revision and homework that determines a student's final grades. Ability alone is not sufficient, indeed our most successful students are often not those who are the most academically gifted, but those who are the hardest workers, those students who have developed good study habits and who are dedicated to achieving the best grades that they can.

Our mock exams, which are now more commonly called "pre-public examinations", begin on Tuesday, 15th January for Modern Foreign Language speaking and listening examinations and on Monday, 21st January the written examinations for other subjects begin. The results which students achieve in these pre-public examinations are crucial; they are used to predict grades for sixth form entry, apprenticeship applications and job and college applications. Revision and hard work in the run up to these examinations is of obvious importance. Your son or daughter will be given an examination timetable and this will also be found on the school's website. We would be immensely grateful to draw upon your support in ensuring that your child gets the focus on their school work at this time; this may mean some "tough love" in imposing boundaries and actively ensuring that plenty of revision gets done.

In order to continue to support Year 11 students in developing independence and good study habits, we are introducing two after school Independent Study Sessions. These will take place on Tuesdays and Wednesday in the school's ISC between 3:30 and 4:30pm beginning after half term, Tuesday, 30th October. Students can voluntarily stay behind after school in a quiet environment to complete homework, revise and to receive help from staff who will be available. It is intended that there will be subject specialists available who will be there to answer questions and to offer guidance.

If we are concerned about the progress of an individual student they may be directed to attend. We do hope that you will support us in that decision, as experience shows that by home and school working together around the student we are more likely to motivate them to improve their study skills. If we feel that this is necessary for your son or daughter you will be contacted by the school.

If you would like to discuss further how you can support your son or daughter in their independent study please do not hesitate to contact the Tutor team Leader for Year 11, Mrs Warneford.

Yours faithfully

Mrs K Warneford
Tutor team Leader for Year 11



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