

**5<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

Dear Parents and Carers

**Re: Year 11 Update**

Year 11 are working exceptionally hard, and we are very proud of them. With only 10 school weeks to go until the first exam on 7<sup>th</sup> May, the final countdown is underway! I am writing to you to share some important information and an update. Please read this letter carefully and as always, we appreciate your continued support during this busy time.

**Attendance**

In January and February, we often see a rise in colds and viruses. Whilst we encourage students to look after themselves when ill. We also encourage students, parents and carers to remember the importance of attending school every day. The NHS has published guidelines to help you to decide if you should keep your child off school. They can be found on their official website and are attached with this letter:

[www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/](http://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/)

Did you know?

- 90% attendance means missing on average one ½ day EVERY week.
- 90% attendance means the equivalent of missing 4 whole weeks in one school year.
- Missing just 17 days in one year can mean dropping a full grade at GCSE.
- Schools are open 195 days a year, that leaves 170 other dates for leisure time.
- A child on holiday for 2 weeks during term time will miss 50 one-hour lessons. This is incredibly difficult to catch up on.
- Being late 10 minutes each day for one year is equal to missing approximately 6 school days.

**Half Term Revision Sessions**

We are grateful to staff who have offered to give up some of their well-deserved break so that we can offer additional revision sessions over the half term holiday. Please see below for details of the sessions being offered. Students who are expected to attend the sessions will receive an individual invite this week. We will also email the parents of those expected to attend. We will also be offering revision sessions during the Easter holidays and details will be sent to you in due course.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Subjects Covered	English Science RE	Photography (11D) Maths MFL	Geography Health and Social Photography (11C) Dance (Full Day)

### Trial 3 Exams – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March

Year 11 will start their final set of mock exams towards the end of February which will help them to prepare for the summer exams. We have now finalised the schedule. The dates and exams are below, and they can also be accessed by following this link [Exams Information - Darton Academy](#)

WEEK 1					
DATE	Monday 26th February	Tuesday 27th February	Wednesday 28th February	Thursday 29th February	Friday 1st March
EXAMS	8:30AM Maths Paper 1 Non-Calculator (1h 30m)	8:30AM English Language C1 (1hr45m)	8:30AM Science CHEMISTRY Combined (1h 15m) Triple (1h 45m)	8:30AM English Literature C1 (2h)	8:30AM Maths P2 Calculator (1hr30m)
	12:30PM Science BIOLOGY Combined (1h 15m) Triple (1h 45m)	12:30PM No Exam	12:30PM Spanish Reading & Listening Foundation (45m+35m) Higher (60m+45m)	12:30PM Science PHYSICS Combined (1h 15m) Triple (1h 45m)	12:30PM Option Exams
AFTER SCHOOL	English	Science and MFL	English Literature	Maths	History/Geography

WEEK 2					
DATE	Monday 4th March	Tuesday 5th March	Wednesday 6th March	Thursday 7th March	Friday 8th March
EXAMS	8:30AM Geography Paper 2 (1h 30m) History Paper 1 (1h 15m)	8:30AM English Language C2 (2hrs)	8:30AM French & Spanish Writing Foundation (60m) Higher (1h15m)	8:30AM Maths P3 Calculator (1hr30m)	8:30AM English Literature C2 (2h 45m)
	12:30PM Option Exams	12:30PM Health and Social Care (2h)	12:30PM French Reading & Listening Foundation (45m+35m) Higher (60m+45m)	12:30PM History Paper 3 (1h 20m)	12:30PM No exams
AFTER SCHOOL	English	MFL	Maths	English Lit	History/Geography

### After School and Breakfast Enrichment Sessions

Research shows that students who complete two hours of extra study a day at this stage, are more likely to achieve well in the summer exams. We believe one of those two hours can be achieved by staying behind at school to complete an hour of teacher led exam preparation.

Y11 INTERVENTION	
DELTA Darton	
Revision <a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize">www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize</a> <a href="http://www.gcsepod.com">www.gcsepod.com</a> <a href="https://sparxmaths.com/">https://sparxmaths.com/</a>	<p><b>Monday</b> After school - Maths</p> <p><b>Tuesday</b> Home Study and Revision</p> <p><b>Wednesday</b> After school - English</p> <p><b>Thursday</b> Breakfast revision - MFL and Business After school - Science</p> <p><b>Friday</b> Breakfast revision - Triple Science and History After school - History, Geography, MFL</p>

The following links can be used to access the online platforms that your child can use at home to support their learning.

- <https://sparxmaths.com>

- <https://www.gcsepod.com>
- <https://www.languagenut.com>

### **Prom - Friday 5th July,**

We would like as many students as possible to be invited to attend the prom, however attendance is conditional, subject to good behaviour and effort. Students must have good attendance to school and come to 30 after school enrichment sessions between 15<sup>th</sup> January and 6<sup>th</sup> May. Students must have at least 10 weeks of Sparx homework tasks competed at 100% during this time period. We will take into account any special consideration for students with unique circumstances such as absence due to medical treatment or other issues out of their control.

### **Student Wellbeing**

We know that Year 11 can be a very busy time for students and their families. Some students can feel overwhelmed during this time too. To support students, we will be covering strategies to help them during assemblies and EPC lessons, whilst also providing some small group sessions provided by Compass Be, for students who we feel are most in need of this service. You can also find useful links below.

<https://www.dartonacademy.org.uk/knowledge-base/pupil-safety/>

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

<https://www.compass-uk.org/>

### **Contingency Exam Dates – Please continue to be available during these dates**

In case of any major disruption to the examination system in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, the exam boards, government, and Joint Council for Qualifications developed a contingency plan, so that exams can continue to take place. Examples of disruptions could include severe weather, widespread illness, travel disruption or system failures. The awarding bodies have designated the afternoon sessions of Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024 and Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024 and the morning and afternoon sessions of Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024 as 'contingency sessions' for examinations. All students must be available for these dates.

If you have any questions, please contact me using [info@dartonacademy.org.uk](mailto:info@dartonacademy.org.uk) and check the academy website regularly for more advice, guidance, and information.

Yours sincerely

Mr JP Craig

Senior Vice Principal