



Bishop Rawstorne Church of England Academy



22 November 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian

We have listened to a number of parents and students regarding the issue of allocating homework over the holiday periods and the additional need for revision at KS4. We would like to offer some guidance on what we expect as a school and how you can support as parents.

Students in Years 10 and 11 will not be allocated homework tasks over the holiday periods– we appreciate there is often tension between revision and the completion of homework, so holiday periods are the perfect time to recharge batteries but also focus solely on revision. Naturally, we are unable to monitor revision as accurately as we can homework, so support and supervision from parents is hugely important whilst our students are away from school. We will reserve the right, however, to set homework where it has been missed, where students are underachieving through a lack of effort or poor attitude, or for intervention purposes.

No Year 10 or Year 11 student should ever be able to state that they have 'no work to do' and with mocks for Year 11s in November and a number of students in Year 10 sitting early entry exams or regularly completing 'mock' style assessments/exams or coursework, there is certainly a wealth of revision that can be completed. Every student has been provided with a number of revision resources in the subject areas they study at examination level and detailed guidance on what is covered can be found on our school website, under the relevant curriculum area.

Whilst in Year 10, all students are visited by an external company (Elevate Education), who provide extensive guidance on the most effective ways to revise. There is a section on the school website entitled '**Exam Prep & Revision**' under the 'Parents' Section which you may like to refer to when supporting your child in how to revise. It may be worth noting that the most successful strategies such as mind maps, flashcards and completing past papers are the least popular choices whilst the easier options such as completing online quizzes, highlighting and reading through notes are hugely ineffectual unless followed by some further action.

Students in Year 11 have also been given a comprehensive revision booklet that details the topics to be covered in every subject area and a template for their own revision timetable. A link to this resource can be found under the 'Exam Prep' section and is entitled '**Revision Planner**'; parents of Year 10 students may also find this useful in guiding their child in what topics need to be studied for each subject.

With the exceptions of holidays, however, homework completion is one of our non-negotiables, an expectation for all of our students. It encourages our students to develop the skills, confidence, motivation and self-discipline to study effectively as independent and life-long learners. It consolidates, reinforces and extends what students know, understand and can do at school, extending their learning. We are committed to involving you as parents and carers in our students' learning and keeping you regularly informed about what they are doing at school.

If you have any further queries regarding revision and homework, please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor or their teacher in the particular subject in question.

We thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

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