St Joseph's Catholic Academy

Headteacher: Mr J Crowe
Chair of Local Governing Committee: Mrs G Kilgour

Mill Lane, Hebburn, Tyne and Wear, NE31 2ET
Web: www.stjosephs.uk.net
Telephone: 0191 428 2700
Email: office@stjosephs.uk.net

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Subject: Year 11 Revision Revolution Launch

Dear Parents/Carers,

It was a pleasure to welcome so many of you into school last night for the launch of our Year 11 Revision Revolution in preparation for the upcoming mock examinations.

I appreciate that this is a busy time of year and that we will also be asking you to attend the Year 11 Parents' Evening in a couple of weeks. Thank you for your continued support of your child's education and examination preparation.

For those who were unable to attend, I have attached a copy of the presentation. The key messages from the evening are summarised below.

Why are we launching the Revision Revolution?

Following the Year 10 to Year 11 transition interviews, many students told us that they wanted to achieve well but were unsure:

- What to revise
- How to revise effectively
- What high-quality revision actually looks like

In response, we have launched the Year 11 Revision Revolution, our whole-school approach to helping every student revise with confidence, purpose and direction.

Through focused revision resources, daily opportunities for revision in school, evidence-informed revision strategies and targeted support through STEP and Closing the Gap interventions, students are being given clear guidance on what to revise, how to revise and when to revise.

By removing common barriers such as "I don't know what to revise" or "I don't know how to revise", we are providing students with a clear pathway to success while increasing accountability for engaging fully with their preparation.

Revision Revolution Folder

Every Year 11 student has been issued with a Revision Revolution Folder containing:

- Effective Revision Strategies Booklet
- Mock Examination Timetable
- Subject-specific revision resources and guidance (distributed through lessons)
- STEP and Closing the Gap timetable
- Four-week revision planning tool
- Pack of 100 blank flashcards

Additional revision materials, paper and resources are also available from tutor bases and the library revision station.

The revision folder should now be viewed as essential daily equipment. Students will be expected to bring it to school every day and will use it regularly during lessons and tutor time. Students who do not have their folder with them will receive a BER, reflecting the importance of being prepared and organised.

Daily Revision During Tutor Time

To help establish consistent and effective revision habits, students will now complete daily revision activities during tutor time using the resources within their folders.

Most mornings will include:

- Prayer and reflection
- A whole-class revision activity, replacing the completed PSHE programme
- Revision focused on English, Mathematics or RE
- Student-selected revision from their own subjects and resources

These short, focused activities are designed to strengthen knowledge recall, expose students to a variety of revision techniques and help develop the routine of high-quality independent revision.

STEP and Closing the Gap Interventions

STEP and Closing the Gap intervention sessions continue to play a vital role in supporting students.

Students can view their assigned sessions on Arbor and have also received a timetable showing when intervention sessions take place. Additional sessions will be added over the next four weeks leading up to the mock examinations, so students should check Arbor regularly.

Every Year 11 student has been assigned to attend at least one intervention session.

Attendance at these sessions is considered compulsory unless supported by a note from a parent/carer. Where no explanation is provided, students will receive a detention.

As part of this programme, all Year 11 students are expected to attend a whole-year revision session in the Main Hall on Thursday 5 November from 3.00pm until 3.30pm.

If a student is unable to attend, they should bring a note from a parent/carer and show this to either the lead member of staff running the session or myself.

Expectations for Independent Revision

One of the key messages from the evening was the importance of sustained independent study.

Students should be completing a minimum of two hours of work each evening, made up of homework and additional revision. As we move closer to the mock examinations, which are now only four weeks away, students should expect to increase this further at weekends.

Additional guidance on revision planning, breaking revision into manageable chunks and supporting student wellbeing can be found within the presentation.

Finally, Year 11 is an exceptionally talented year group, and we have very high aspirations for them. However, talent alone is not enough. Success in examinations comes through consistent hard work, commitment and dedication over time.

As a school, we are providing students with the tools they need to succeed: high-quality teaching, carefully planned revision resources, structured opportunities to revise, intervention sessions and targeted support.

The responsibility now rests with students to make full use of these opportunities and commit themselves fully to achieving the very best outcomes of which they are capable.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Mr N Wiecek
Assistant Headteacher