

Churchfield Lane
Darton Barnsley
South Yorkshire
S75 5EW
Tel: 01226 382568
Fax: 01226382350
Email: darton.high@barnsley.org



Headteacher:
Mr Simon J Hill BSc PGCE MA NPQH

14th January 2008

Dear Parents and Guardians of Year 11 students,

I am writing to you to inform you of the support plan that the school is putting into place to aid your child through the very important exam period ahead and request your support with it. On Monday 14th January, your son/daughter received their mock examination results and began to complete an action plan for improvement with their form tutor. This may involve completing and redrafting coursework, attending revision sessions, revising at home as well as ensuring that all the necessary resources are available in order to revise effectively.

Please find attached a support plan timetable, which has also been issued to your son/daughter and the staff of the school. This is to assist all of us in planning when additional sessions can be attended, what additional materials are available, and what revision can take place away from the classroom. We will also be requesting that certain students attend the after school classes, for example if they have not completed coursework, missed lessons etc - we hope we can rely on you to support us in this. Can I ask you to go through the plan, with your son/daughter and look at their examination results, so that they can best plan their revision time in order to have maximum impact where it is most needed?

As well as form tutors mentoring students, further advice and targets will also be given by subject teachers in the Year 11 reports that will be issued to students on 25th January and at the Parents' Evenings on 29th (North) and 31st January (South). Students know if they are timetabled as 'North' or 'South', if not please ring the school and we will be happy to advise you.

During this week students will also be completing a Learning Styles questionnaire – the outcome of this will determine if your child is a visual, auditory or kinaesthetic learner, or a combination of all three. This means that in order to revise for an exam, learn new information or complete homework your son/daughter will often use one preferred style of learning; this does not mean this way is the only way - the most successful learners practice until they can use all three!

Here are some examples of how your child can learn and revise better at home, with your help:



Visual - seeing

- Displaying & highlighting keywords
- Making and displaying colourful posters, mind maps, flow charts & diagrams
- Spotting patterns/shapes in words as well as images
- Reading lively texts
- Imagining stories linked to pictures
- Watching informative videos



Auditory - hearing

- Creating rhymes, raps, poems & verse
- Listening to background music (although some auditory learners need the reverse – silence)
- Topical discussion & reading aloud
- Paired testing (out loud)
- Debating & presenting information to others
- Listening to others explaining



Kinaesthetic - doing

- Designing & making activities
- Making colourful posters, mind maps, flow charts & diagrams
- Matching physical movements to facts/information
- Miming & acting out
- Creating a mini-play to show others
- Taking frequent, mini physical breaks with time to move around & get active

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There are also various websites that support learning and revision. An excellent resource is www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize which has GCSE practice questions and tests as well as some more light hearted revision practice for fun.

The school has also subscribed to SAM Learning Secondary, a top quality eLearning service that has been proven to improve GCSE grades through GCSE exam practice and related work. One of the key features of this service is that it can be accessed from virtually any computer with Internet access and it has an area that reports on progress and shows marks gained - and other schools who use it report significant usage outside the core school day. To access the service at www.samlearning.com learners need three details:

Centre ID:	S75DH
User ID:	Date of birth followed by two initials; first name then last name. Example: 010896DJ is the User ID for David Jones born 1st Aug 1996.
Password:	Initially same as User ID, Learners are encouraged to change this to something difficult to guess or work out.

In short, there are many ways that we can work together in partnership, to attain success and achieve the potential of your child in these life affecting examinations. I hope we can count on your support, not just for additional academic help, but in maximising the attendance of your son/daughter to school during these final weeks. Please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the teachers in school if you require further support or guidance. We look forward to seeing you at the forthcoming parents' evening, where subject specific guidance will be given

Yours sincerely

Karine Jasper

Assistant Headteacher
Teaching for Learning

