

Churchfield Lane
Darton Barnsley
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Headteacher:
Mr Simon J Hill BSc PGCE MA NPQH

February 2008

Dear Parents and Guardians of Year 9 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. Your son/daughter has received their mock SAT's examination results and began to complete an action plan for improvement with their form tutor. This will involve 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 the Year 9 support plan, 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 missed lessons, need to revisit a certain topic they performed badly in 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?

In January students completed 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

There are also various websites that support learning and revision. An excellent resource is www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks3bitesize which has SAT's practice questions and tests as well as some more light hearted revision practice for fun.



National
Schools
Partnership



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The school has also subscribed to SAM Learning Secondary, a top quality eLearning service that has been proven to improve SAT's levels through SAT's 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.

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 weeks. Please find below the examination timetable:

Y9 Examinations 2008		
KS3 Practise SATs		
03 March 2008	pm	Mental Maths A & C, Paper 1
04 March 2008	pm	Maths paper 2
05 March 2008	pm	English Writing Paper
06 March 2008	am	English Reading Paper
06 March 2008	pm	English Shakespeare Paper
07 March 2008	am	Science paper 1
07 March 2008	pm	Science paper 2
CAT Tests		
10 March 2008	am & pm	Internal
12 March 2008	am & pm	Internal
KS3 SATs		
06 May 2008	am	Mental Maths A & C, Paper 1
06 May 2008	pm	Maths paper 2
07 May 2008	am	English Writing Paper
07 May 2008	pm	Mental Maths B
08 May 2008	am	English Reading Paper
08 May 2008	pm	English Shakespeare Paper
09 May 2008	am	Science paper 1
09 May 2008	pm	Science paper 2

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 vitally important examinations, the results of which will affect the availability of option choices. Please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the teachers in school if you require further support or guidance.

Yours sincerely

Karine Jasper

Assistant Headteacher
 Teaching for Learning

