

# The Ramsey Academy, Halstead

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Headteacher:  
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Dear Parents/Carers

The countdown to the GCSE examinations has started with the mock examinations. When students return in January they will only have 16 school weeks before they start; this term was 14 weeks – think how quickly it's gone!

During the next two terms there will be a number of intervention programmes available for students and parents, some of which are outlined below. Please encourage students to attend the various interventions, as they can have a huge impact on the GCSE outcomes and significantly support the work completed in lessons.

## Launch Day – Tuesday 2 January

All Year 11 students will be expected to be in school on Tuesday 2 January to attend Study Skills and Motivational workshops, which will be delivered by external presenters, who we have worked with before. Students are not expected to wear uniform but should come suitably equipped with pen, pencil and clipboard to lean on or something similar.

The timetable for the day is:

Registration at 9.45 a.m. in the Main Hall

**Workshop 1** (10.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon) – Mastering Student Motivation with GCSE Pod

This workshop has four main aims:

- To encourage students to take personal responsibility for their futures.
- To remove self-limiting beliefs and glass ceilings.
- To encourage students to develop self-motivation.
- To understand how full integration of GCSE Pod into their daily lives will increase attainment.

**Lunch** 12.00 noon – 1.00 p.m. will be provided free of charge

**Workshop 2** (1.00 p.m. – 3.00 p.m.) – Exam Busters with GCSE pod

The course has 4 main aims:

- To stimulate a positive attitude to studying and revision.
- To empower students with effective study techniques.
- To fully integrate the skills learned with GCSE Pod.
- To raise self-belief and aspirations.

## Tutor Time

Year 11 Tutor Time will be re-structured to allow focused intervention for specific subjects and selected student cohorts, depending on identified need. These intervention sessions will start week beginning Monday 22 January.

The format for the week will be;

- **Monday** – as normal
- **Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday** – English and Mathematics intervention groups or self-directed study in the Library with staff support. Students will attend targeted sessions for a period of 2 weeks before the groups are changed. It is important students attend all sessions on time. To encourage good punctuality students will be issued with an Attendance Card, to record arrival and work completed. At the end of the week completed cards will be entered into a draw to select winners for reward vouchers.

- *Friday* – Assembly. Topics will vary depending on the examination preparation needs and include the 'weekly raffle' draws.

### **Revision Programme, Period 6 and Library Access**

A comprehensive revision and coursework support programme will be offered, at lunchtimes and after school.

During the last two years 'Period 6' has been successful and valued by students. Period 6 involves extending the school day and inviting students to attend specific revision sessions. The feedback from parents and students to this approach was very positive; having a significant impact on the progress of those who attended.

Students will finish normal timetabled lessons at 3.00 p.m. and immediately go to the extension lesson until 4.00 p.m. This will be known as 'Period 6'. The introduction of Period 6 lessons will start in mid-January.

Students and parents will be notified about compulsory attendance for specific subjects, but we would encourage voluntary attendance for other subjects to give the best possible chance of success in the examinations.

For those students invited to attend Period 6 lessons who travel by bus, we will arrange for a minibus to transport them home at 4.00 p.m. if required.

Many students also find that access to the Library and computers aid their revision programme. Therefore, the library will be open until 5.00 p.m. Monday to Thursday each week. The aim is to provide an environment for students to complete independent learning and work in peer support groups.

To encourage attendance at the revision sessions, students will be issued with a 'Revision Passport', to record their participation. At the end of each week completed cards will be entered into a draw to select winners for reward vouchers.

### **Other resources**

Teachers will inform students of numerous resources including, PIXL and other recommended apps, GCSE Pod, BBC Bitesize, revision guides, exam websites for past papers and mark schemes.

### **Parent Support**

Results of mock examinations and predicted grades will be issued to students on Monday 15 January in a 'Mock Results Day' assembly. There will be another progress report sent home at Easter.


Additionally, there are several Parent Support Evenings arranged. The first is on Thursday 25 January where there will be the opportunity to discuss progress and next steps with individual teachers. The second is on Thursday 1 February to explain the revised GCSE grades, suggesting advice on providing support from home and outlining different study techniques to aid preparation for the exams.

If needed, teachers may invite you to intervention meetings, to discuss progress and identify specific strategies that may help students to fulfil their potential.

As you can see there are a range of opportunities available to support the students before the examinations start in May. Additionally, each subject will complete revision and final preparation in lessons. It is therefore vital that attendance and punctuality is a high priority. Whilst we can arrange for all these activities to take place, ultimately each individual student has to have the motivation to 'be the best they can be' and apply themselves positively during the next few months. I hope you will support us and ensure your child attends the recommended support programmes and completes independent learning at home to maximise their chances in the final GCSE examinations.

If you wish to discuss specific issues, please contact your child's Raising Standards Leader.

Yours faithfully



Rob James  
Headteacher