Tomlinscote School

6th November 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: Revision for Year 11 Students

I hope you found Thursday's progress meetings extremely useful at this stage of Year 11.

I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight a few recurring messages.

All students, at this stage of the year should have a revision timetable. This year, students have it easier than before because AI can generate a very good one for them to follow. There is an AI prompt posted to their Google Classroom which will create a framework for them. Here is the example:

Act as an expert GCSE tutor. Create a realistic 12-week revision timetable for a Year 11 student sitting GCSEs in Edexcel Maths, AQA English Language, AQA Combined Science, and OCR History. I have free time from 4:30 PM to 7:00 PM on weekdays and 4 hours on Saturday. Break the study time into 45-minute blocks with 10-minute breaks. Rotate the subjects evenly and include specific topic breakdowns for each session.

At this stage, it is totally understandable your child might be feeling a little overwhelmed at the volume of revision they must complete over the next 6 months. The mechanisms we are recommending (revision timetable, follow the scheme of revision, RAG topic lists, making flashcards, mind maps and blurting) are ones that will help to alleviate some of their worries.

The key is to get going now and start chipping away at the revision; the more hours your child has under their belt earlier on, the easier this process is going to be.

The timing of mocks is always a difficult balancing act. The first round of mocks presents the challenge that the students will have had less time to complete as much revision, but this is partially offset by the fact that these mocks have reduced content and the students have a good idea of what will appear in most of the exams.

The timing of the March mocks means that students will have completed their courses of learning in many subjects and will be doing lots of retrieval in many of their lessons. And if students are starting their revision now, the Summer exams will still be a challenge, but one that they are prepared for.

Finally, we understand that some students will start to book tutors after school. Although tutors can be an additional boost in confidence for some students, we sometimes find that a very small handful of students will feel they don't need to put the work into lessons, or do any additional revision, because they have a tutor. This is not the case, a tutor is like having a personal trainer; they will help you in that PT session, but you still need to put the hours in at the gym for the rest of the week to improve.

We hope that Year 11s are not getting detentions at this stage of the year but please be reminded that we only rearrange detentions for verified medical appointments; we are unable to rearrange detentions for private tutoring appointments.

Thank you for your ongoing support,

Yours sincerely

Mr C Taylor
Vice Principal