

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 7 Information Evening (Tuesday 11th June) & Year 7 Exams

Thank you to all those parents and students who attended the information evening on Tuesday this week. For those families that weren't able to attend I would like to take this opportunity to confirm some really important details which you and your child need to be aware of in the coming weeks.

Your child will be sitting their Year 7 exams from Tuesday 25th to Friday 28th June. In many ways this is a culmination of the work they have completed across their different subjects this academic year and a fantastic opportunity to demonstrate the progress they have made.

We have put a lot of emphasis this year on developing students' study skills so that they have the tools and strategies to revise effectively in their own time. For example, when preparing for assessments and tests subject areas have first provided guidance in lessons and then set revision homework that includes the creation of revision mind maps and flashcards. Educational research and experience clearly show that if young people develop their study skills over time and are able to be independent it provides them with the best chance of being successful.

With this in mind I would like to take this opportunity to share 3 important documents with you, that if your child uses effectively will support them in being successful in their Year 7 exams.

1. Year 7 Exam Timetable

- Outlines when your child's specific exams will take place.
- Includes a topic list showing the content which each exam will include.

2. Year 7 Revision Timetable

- To help organise the students' time and get them started I have created a 12 day revision plan starting on Thursday 13th June (TODAY)
- Students are expected to complete a minimum of 2 hours of study each day for that period. Each subject has 2 or 3 sessions with the content of those subject exams broken up into manageable chunks.
- So effectively if your child sticks to the revision plan they will cover all of the information they need for each of their exams. We would then suggest that the night before the exams they retrieve and refresh this information as this is proven to help students remember things better.

3. Study Skills and Revision Techniques Resource

- I have included a resource that focuses on 2 particular revision techniques that your child should be familiar with; Chunking & Mind Maps.
- This includes basic information about why this technique is effective as well as guidance and examples of how to carry them out.

Headteacher Mr Jonathan Heath

John Spence Community High School, Preston Road, North Shields, NE29 9PU.

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- We also recognise that we now live in a digital age and many students will prefer to use technology to help them revise. I have included information regarding 2 specific apps which our current Year 11 have used effectively to prepare for their GCSE exams (FLORA & SIMPLEMENT). Both apps are really simple to navigate and I am confident they will help your child prepare for their exams if they wish to use them.

Why are the Year 7 exams important? Why is it important your child performs at their best?

- Being able to recall and retrieve key information is a vital skill required within GCSE examinations
- Demonstrating and deepening knowledge and skills covered in Year 7 allows for better progress through the Year 8 curriculum and beyond
- If a child performs to their best, that provides an accurate picture of their strengths and weaknesses in each subject area which in turn can be used to accurately provide the support and challenge required.

We know how important the exams are and therefore teaching staff expect students to be punctual, prepared and considerate of others at all times.

I hope all of the information above makes sense to you and you can support us as a school in ensuring your child makes the best of this opportunity. Of course, if you do have any questions regarding any of the information please contact the school office.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Best wishes,

James Redpath
Assistant Head teacher