

Friday 31st March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are now in the final stages of preparation prior to Year 11 students commencing their GCSE and vocational exams. Students have recently completed their mock exams and are coming home with their results today, so please discuss the current position with your child, and what they need to do to make those final improvements in the coming few weeks.

We now need to ensure that we maximise every minute of these final weeks so that we can maximise exam performance; every one mark we gain can make the difference in achieving the next grade. One mark can be the difference between grade 3 or 4; a grade 7 or 8. Every lesson lost could cost them a mark in their exam, so attendance in these final few weeks is vital. We hope that this letter gives you a clear overview of what students should be accessing to make the most of their studies and preparation and how you can become more involved in the process.

It is proven that many small tweaks (marginal gains) add up to big differences (gains). Each of the intervention strategies below equate to marginal gains, taking advantage of all of the listed opportunities has proven year on year to make exceptional gains and big shifts in grades, even at this stage. It is essential that students take every opportunity that we've listed, alongside their high quality teaching and learning in lessons.

- All students have now received their summer exam calendars, please ensure you have a copy so that you can help them prepare each day. Whilst some subjects have practical exams just after the Easter break, the main exam window commences on Tuesday 16th May through until the end of June.
- We have totally re-developed the Year 11 timetable for during the exams, so students have pre-exam boosters directly before subject exams. Students will get this copy after Easter.
- Today, students received their Praising Stars 4 report as well as their mock grades. This details their grade predictions and effort in each subject area. Look closely at where improvements are needed: ensure your child focuses on that area in their revision.

Outwood Grange Academies Trust, a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 06995649.

Registered office address: Potovens Lane, Outwood, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF1 2PF.

VAT number: 158 2720 04. Outwood Grange Academies Trust is an exempt charity.

A list of Directors' names is open to inspection at our registered office.

- To maximise every minute and to offer additional teaching and revision time our teachers are delivering additional sessions before school, lunchtime and after school every day, now and throughout the exam season. Students should now be accessing these sessions and attending the enrichment sessions until 3.30pm every day. Whilst we have further targeted sessions which subject teachers invite students, all students are encouraged to attend the following sessions:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Breakfast 7.45am - 8.15am		Maths	English	Science	English
Lunchtime				Science	Science
After-school 2.30pm - 3.30pm	English		Science French Engineering Music	Maths Spanish	Geography Art Performing Arts History

- We will also be delivering a series of focused sessions over the Easter break. Staff are using their holiday days to target areas students need to work on; they are focused on the marks missed in the mock exams and the strategies that will support excellent exam performance. The sessions will take place;

Date	3rd April	4th April	5th April	6th April	11th April	12th April
Subject(s) and time	Music at 8.30am - 1.00pm Geography at 9.30am - 12.30pm Art at 8.30am - 2.30pm	Art at 8.30am - 2.30pm English at 9.00am - 12.30pm	Art at 8.30am - 2.30pm Foundation Spanish at 10.00am - 12.00pm Higher Spanish at 12.30pm - 2.30pm Maths ONLINE at 10.00am - 2.00pm	History at 8.30am - 2.30pm	Science at 9.00am - 12.00pm	Foundation French at 10.00am - 12.00pm Higher French at 12.30pm - 2.30pm Catering at 8.30am - 2.30pm

- The Year 11 prom has been scheduled for Thursday 29th June. This is an important rite of passage for students and an excellent opportunity to celebrate all of their hard work after their exams. In order to attend the prom students must meet the criteria below, noting that every element of the criteria is in support of them preparing for their life changing exams.
 - Attend at least 10 after-school sessions
 - Attendance at least 95% from now until their final examination
 - Excellent punctuality to the academy each day
 - Excellent behaviour, no C5s and no suspensions.

- As discussed in the parent and student revision event held this week, students are encouraged to have a home revision timetable, and we suggest revising little and often, increasing in the lead up to the exams. But this must also include time for themselves for personal activities such as exercising and social time. Subject leaders have shared the following resources to support students home revision and we also have a selection of free resources such as course-booklets, past-papers, notebooks, highlighters and more, available from the Student Information Desk and subject leaders.
 - Sparx maths: www.sparxmaths.com
 - Hegarty maths: www.hegartymaths.com
 - Outwood Maths revision: <https://revision.maths.outwood.com/>
 - English website: <https://revision.english.outwood.com>
 - Outwood Science online: <https://science.outwood.com/> → Click on Y11 tab
 - Science KS4 Bitesize: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z8r997h>
 - Science GCSEPod: <https://members.gcsepod.com/login/>
 - Geography website: <https://geography.outwood.com>
 - History website: <https://history.outwood.com>
 - French revision: <https://bit.ly/qFrench>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z9dqxb>
 - Spanish revision: <https://bit.ly/quizletspan>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z4dqxb>

Many subjects have given students revision guides, workbooks and past paper books to work through. Please encourage students to do little and often. No more than an hour at a time without a break.

We recognise that exams are a challenging time for students and the key means of reducing exam stress is to ensure that students are best prepared and confident going into the exams. We are really proud of Year 11 students and the progress they have made, especially taking into account the challenges of the last few years.

If your child is struggling with exam stress it is worth signposting them to the following website which provides support strategies.

- <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/coping-with-life/exam-stress/>

Please also encourage them to speak to adults at school so that we can offer further support over the exam season.

We are determined to see them achieve their potential and are always available to discuss how we can further support, especially in these final days. We have listed below some key contacts if you have any questions or concerns.

Miss C Chadwick (Learning manager): c.chadwick@danum.outwood.com

Miss L Kelly (Lead learning manager): l.kelly@danum.outwood.com

Mrs Reilly (SENDCo): h.reilly@danum.outwood.com

Mrs Godfrey (Vice Principal): d.godfrey@danum.outwood.com

Thank you for your support in ensuring your child takes full advantage of every opportunity in these final days and weeks. We look forward to the reward in the summer as students open their examination results and celebrate reaching their full potential and completing their secondary school education with fantastic life changing results, ready for the next stage in their lives.

Yours faithfully,



Amanda Crane
Principal