



27th March 2019

Dear parents,

I am writing to parents to provide information and resources so that you can continue to support the revision process at home. In this letter I would like to highlight the revision sessions that are currently being held in school, what resources are available for pupils to use at home and the importance of the Easter revision period.

Parents' Support Evening

We held a Parents' Support Evening on Wednesday 20th March, which was very well-attended. There were contributions from English, Maths and Science, as well as Mr Blackband the Head of Sixth Form who discussed sixth form choices. Resources from the evening are available on the school website <http://www.ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk/00-home/03-letters-upper-school.shtml>

Subject information

The following revision sessions are currently being held outside of lesson times for Year 11. There is also some key information Heads of Departments would like me to share.

	Before school	Lunch (1.10pm-1.45pm)	Afterschool (3.30pm- 4.30pm)
Monday		Food	English – targeted sessions
Tuesday		Geography – targeted sessions	Maths clinic
Wednesday		Geography PE	Computer Science DT (last revision session 8 th May) Geography clinic History
Thursday	PE	Food ML – French; German; Spanish Science	Maths – Foundation with 6 th Formers
Friday			Art Computer Science

Maths – Each pupil has been issued with a paper pack by the Maths department. Their Maths teacher will have told them what they need to complete over Easter, they should do this. There is no requirement to do anything in addition to that which has been recommended by their Maths teacher, but all pupils are aware of the additional resources we have made available on SharePoint if they wish to do extra. There is no need to download additional past papers or resources from elsewhere, we will issue the past papers in a timely fashion and have collated the best resources on SharePoint for pupils to use.

English – Monday sessions are focused sessions run for invited pupils; however, other pupils are welcome to attend should they feel they are struggling. The sessions are solely on the Language Papers and are finishing on 1st April.

Wednesday clinic has been running since Year 10 and is open for all pupils to come and receive support, or to work on English revision/ homework in a quiet environment with a teacher available for guidance and to answer question.



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SESSET

ML (French, German, Spanish and Italian) - pupils have completed booklets to prepare them for their Speaking Assessment. They need to practise this regularly over Easter, by saying the answers to themselves, a friend or family member, record themselves speaking and then fall asleep listening to themselves speaking in the Language! This will help them to learn their answers. In addition, they will be set work using www.thisislanguages.com but they could work through as many videos and training activities on www.thisislanguages.com as they can. The videos cover the full range of GCSE topics. Listening with the transcripts will help them with their GCSE Listening Assessment. There are also some excellent GRAMMAR videos with activities. Another useful resource for Listening practice includes www.youtube.com (EasyFrench / EasySpanish / EasyGerman). A useful website, which covers all skills, is www.languagesonline.org.uk. Finally, there is a wide range of resources on SharePoint. The KEY RESOURCES for essential revision are in Folder1 marked '2019 EASTER REVISION'. If pupils wish to go further, there is additional practice in Folder 2, called 'EXTRA REVISION'. Pupils should contact their class teacher before the Easter holidays to ensure that they have all necessary passwords. Ms Trotman is always available by email at: trotman.leda@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk. She would like to take this opportunity to wish all pupils good luck from everyone in the Languages Department. Keep going, make the best use of your time and you will do really well!

Science - Pupils are encouraged to use SharePoint where there are a number of relevant resources, including quizzes and checklists. In addition, pupils will be given paper copies of work to complete over Easter and must ensure that they have completed the third paper from 2018 before the return to school.

Computer Science - pupils need to follow the instructions on SharePoint and use the resources there, basically making sure they have completed all past papers and using links to quizzes to make sure they know the keywords.

Revision Guide

We have recently produced a revision guide for pupils which gives practical advice on how pupils should revise. All pupils will be given a copy of this before the Easter holidays and I would strongly urge you to look through the guide. It includes a range of extremely helpful information relating to supportive websites, tips on how to plan, and detailed explanations of how to approach revision. Revision for the vast majority of pupils will have already started and it is vital that pupils are developing a routine that allows them to prepare thoroughly for the summer exams. The guide outlines in detail how such an approach practically should look.

Easter Revision

Historically, the Easter holidays have proved to be an important period for revision. In previous years, successful pupils have organised their time at Easter to ensure they complete a significant amount of revision with opportunities to relax.

Pupils should now have devised and be following a revision timetable at home. Over Easter, our suggestion is that pupils should revise for a period that matches the time they would be in school. One idea that successful pupils have used in the past has been to base revision around the normal school timetable, studying from 9.00am through to 3.30 pm. The subjects studied could then replicate the actual school timetable.

SharePoint contains a revision section for each subject and is an excellent place to start if the pupils are feeling overwhelmed or lacking resources. All pupils have a OneDrive that allows them to save and access their own work online.

There are a number of ways to log in but we have encouraged pupils to use the link on the school website <http://www.ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk/10-login/01-login.shtml>. There is a link here for pupils to click on

that takes them to Office 365. To log on, the pupils need to use their normal school user names and add @ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk to the end of this. The password is the same as their school one.

In addition to Office 365, the school has a wide range of online packages that are used to support learning. These include:

- MyMaths – <https://www.mymaths.co.uk/>
- SAM Learning – <https://www.samlearning.com/>
- Educake for Science for Key Stage 4 – <https://www.educake.co.uk/>
- Linguascope and Vocab Express for languages – <https://www.linguascope.com> and <https://www.vocabexpress.com/>
- ClickView – an online bank of educational videos – <https://www.clickview.co.uk/>

These can all help learning, particularly in the build up to exams. If there is any question relating to log in details, then please contact passwords@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk

Previous pupils have also passed on the following tips to help current pupils in their revision:

- 1) Use course overviews and checklists to get a clear idea of what needs to be studied. These can be found in the content section of the revision website.
- 2) Plan revision thoroughly so that it is clear what is trying to be achieved in each session.
- 3) Develop a sound understanding of a topic by creating clear revision notes or mind mapping. This needs to be done before past papers.
- 4) Make flash cards that can be used to summarise the key information.
- 5) Get someone else in the house to ask mini quizzes based on the information revised. A website has been recommended by a few parents which provides parents with quiz questions. I cannot verify how good it is but it does appear to have good reviews - <http://www.educationquizzes.com/>
- 6) Complete past papers and bring into school to be marked after Easter.
- 7) Ensure there is relaxation time.

We have always stated to pupils that our hope is that they will be able to say they have ‘done their best’ at the conclusion of their final exam in June. The Easter period is an important opportunity for pupils to gain extra time to revise in preparation for the final exams. However, it is important that pupils do allow themselves some relaxation time as well and ideally this will be planned into their revision calendar in the same way that the revision sessions are, so that they don’t feel guilty for having some time off – it is vitally important that they do take some time to relax.

Below is a link to a blog that received national attention a few years ago, detailing a parent's approach to their children’s exams. Many parents found this blog useful. This can be found at: <https://exammumdotcom.wordpress.com/>

Easter Revision Sessions in school

Staff have very kindly offered to run core subject revision sessions during the Easter holidays, which are in addition to the ongoing sessions already happening within school. English and Science are open to all pupils, whilst Maths are targeting specific classes and inviting in those pupils. The dates and times are as follows:

English – Monday 15th April Literature Paper 1 and Tuesday 16th April Literature Paper 2. Both 10am to 1.30pm.

Maths – Wednesday 10th April, 9.30am to 3.30pm (please bring a packed lunch or money for lunch from Dorking as canteen will be closed).

Science – Tuesday 9th April, carousel of topics from 10am until 3pm with a lunch break during the session (please bring a packed lunch or money for lunch from Dorking as canteen will be closed).

Careers and Post-16 Choices

Hopefully all pupils now have a first, second and third choice with regards to Post-16 options in September. Jo Carroll, our careers Adviser, is available to all Year 11 pupils if they are unsure or wish to have further guidance or advice. Please email Ms Carroll on carroll.jo@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk who will be happy to arrange a meeting.

Year 11 have been making excellent use of the ongoing revision sessions within school and I hope to see even more attending as we move closer to the exams; however, as always, please do contact me on gray.pam@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk or Mr Prior on prior.stuart@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk if you have any questions about the revision build-up.

Yours sincerely,



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