



18 April 2016

Dear Parents

### **Examination Study and Revision Arrangements Y10-13**

I am writing to you to outline the examination revision and study arrangements in Term 3 for our Year 10-13 students.

An e-copy of the examination timetable is included in the e-mail and students will be given their own paper copies.

We will not be having examination study leave at Webber again this year following the last three year's positive feedback from staff, parents and students and the significantly improved GCSE and A level results. Instead the Y10-13 examination classes will continue with their normal timetabled lessons following structured and guided revision programmes with their subject staff.

The reasoning behind this decision is that we feel that the best place for the students to study is at School in the subject classes with their teachers where they will get the best subject study support:-

- Teacher led Unit and Topic Review
- Creating a Revision Toolkit including a variety of study methods to fit different learning styles e.g. mind maps, condensed revision notes, key vocabulary lists, flashcards etc.
- Back-filling any gaps in understanding or in class notes and resources
- Past paper practise in timed examination conditions working on examination technique: question styles, question de-coding / mark allocation etc.
- Past paper marking working with examiners' mark schemes and diagnostic gap analysis to highlight areas that may need more revision focus
- Immediate access to subject staff for marking, feedback and help should students 'get stuck' or need additional support
- Ideal answers and additional revision notes
- Access to booster classes

Students will continue to revise with staff right up to the date of the examination in their subject. Once the examination has been completed in that subject then students can use this time in the lesson with staff supervision to focus on their independent revision for their next examination subject and so on until their last examination has been taken.

This maximizes the study time available and keeps the students in a good daily working routine away from the distractions of home where students cannot always be closely supervised and cannot readily access specialist teacher help and resources should they need it.



# THE WEBBER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

This is a system that we have seen work very well in the past with excellent results in driving up examination outcomes for the students. Having the students in school also allows for a calm and controlled daily start to the external examinations, ensuring that they are on time, fully equipped and in an optimum state to do their best.

Once Year 11 and 13 students have completed their final examination they are no longer required to attend school. There will be days set aside for the return of textbooks and materials and to complete the leaving paperwork process.

We will also set aside days when the Year 11 students who will be moving on to their AS courses at Webber will come in to work with their AS subject teachers to receive their course outlines, reading lists and assignments to be completed over the summer to get them off to a flying start with their Year 12 work and best prepare them for the challenging step up to the rigorous A level programmes.

The current Year 12 students and teachers will start the work on their A2 modules as soon as the students have completed their AS examinations, again to allow them a head start and to get their teeth into the A2 units and to allocate reading and assignments for the holiday period.

Some Year 10 students will be taking one or two GCSE subjects a year early. Again, there will be no “study leave” given and students will attend lessons as normal and will resume Year 10 classes once they have completed the external examinations.

Please note that during Term 3 GCSE and A level Booster sessions are running at lunchtimes and after school and all Y10-13 students are **strongly recommended** to make the most of this additional support and access offered by the teaching staff. Students signed up for the Extra Curricular Activities earlier this term and I have requested that subject teachers contact parents directly if they feel a student should be attending a booster session but has not signed up or is not attending.

Similarly all staff are readily available at lunchtime, break time and after school by arrangement should any student wish to ask for additional help or guidance in any subject. Students and parents also have staff school email addresses for forwarding work or any questions they may have.

I hope that this has clarified for you the revision and support plans for our students in Term 3. Please be assured that we will work with our young people right up to the wire to ensure the very best possible examination results for them.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

*H Marsden*

H Marsden

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Principal