



St Ivo School *Fulfilling Potential*

High Leys, St Ives, Cambridgeshire PE27 6RR

Tel 01480 375400 Fax 01480 375444

E-mail office@stivoschool.org Website www.stivoschool.org

Headteacher: Sam Griffin



February 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

As we reach February half term we are met with the fact that the GCSE exams are but 3 months away. This is only 57 school day that are remaining. This news is both exciting and daunting, but as we know good preparation breeds good performance. Our students have heard this message consistently through the year. They have had input with regard to exam preparation and revision in form time, through our All Over It package, and some workshops from Learning Performance in October. It is now time to start putting this all into practice.

Half term is a great opportunity for students to get organised when it comes to revision and get started (often the hardest thing!). What I would like to outline are just a few things students could do practically this half term to do this:

All Over It

Log on to Schoology (if they have not done so already) and join the 'St Ivo School Key Stage 4: All Over It' course (access code being GXG77-P63RJ). Here they can gain access to tips on setting up a revision timetable as well as tips on how to revise. There is also more information on how to stay healthy during revision (including a number of recipes to try!).

Revision timetable

A good start is getting a revision timetable sorted for evenings and weekends. The All Over It package does give advice on how this can be tackled. If students find this difficult over half term, it might be a good idea to discuss this with their form tutor when they come back.

Part of this is also organising which revision sessions in school students will plan to attend. Many departments have already sent information home and given it to students outlining when, where and what sessions are available to all of them. The table below outlines generally when each subject will be offering an after school revision session (please be aware that art and resistant materials are currently running sessions at lunch time and after school by arrangement between staff and students).

DAY	SUBJECTS		
WEEK A			
Monday	English	French	PE
Tuesday	Maths	German	
Wednesday	History	DT/Food	Biology
Thursday	Geography	Business/Economics	Chemistry
Friday			
WEEK B			
Monday	Maths	Dance	
Tuesday	English	Music	
Wednesday	Drama	Ethics	Computing
Thursday	Physics	Child D	Media
Friday			

A useful exercise would be to plan what sessions they will look to attend in the first few weeks back after half term. Please be aware that some subjects are also offering lunch time sessions and if you needed any more information please do contact your child's teacher or Head of Department.

Access online resources

You will have received a Parentmail recently, outlining the various resources available online to our students. For example: GCSEPod, PiXL Apps (including PiXL Independence), DoodleLearn, MathsWatch and Tassomai. Half term is a great chance to get set-up and experiment with these to see which will be most helpful.

Starting revision

Starting revision can always be the hardest thing, so doing it over half term is a great time to overcome that hurdle! A starting point may be conducting a RAG analysis for a number of subjects and their content (rating the content of a course as red, amber or green based on how confident they are in their understanding of it). This will help identify what content or exam questions would be good to start with (beginning with the ambers as these are easiest to turn to greens!). Once this is done, it would be a good idea to start using the various revision techniques outlined in the All Over It package, for example flashcards, mind maps and even past-exam questions, as well as the online resources above.

It is also worth bearing in mind that our students have another maths mock exam in February (19th – 21st). This might also help give a focus to starting their revision.

Preparing for upcoming assessments

For those students studying Art, Pottery or Textiles half term provides an excellent opportunity to get up to date with preparatory studies for the Externally Set Assignment. This component makes up 40% of the GCSE grade. It may also be a good opportunity to get up to date with any other coursework that is ongoing.

Set good habits

Getting into positive routines is another easy win this half term. Setting goals, eating well, exercising, sleeping well, taking time-out and unplugging from technology are all things that will help our students revise efficiently and in a way that is sustainable.

I hope this is a useful document that will help you guide your child through what they can do this half term to help them get 'All Over' revision. I want to stress that it is also crucial our students do get a good break over half term, are well rested and relaxed.

I have tremendous faith and hope in our Year 11; they are a group full of exciting potential that I cannot wait to see unleashed. If you have any queries or questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with myself (sbamber@stivoschool.org), my assistant Head of Year Miss Housden (chousden@stivoschool.org) or Director of KS4 Miss Sherwood (csherwood@stivoschool.org).

I hope you have a wonderful half term.

Kind regards

Scott Bamber
Head of Year 11