



Smithdon High School  
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Re: MKn/LT

13 November 2020

Dear Parents

Thank you, once again, for your continued support for your children as we head towards Christmas and into the second round of Year 11 Health Checks. These health checks will commence on 23 November and include a challenging 45-minute exam in almost all subject areas.

It is not only important for our students to achieve well in these exams to help build their self-esteem, it is also essential that these health checks are given students' full effort, should there be a need for Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs) at the end of the academic year, as happened in the Summer 2020 series.

Our students are working incredibly hard in school to ensure that good outcomes are the focus for each of their subjects; however, it is really important to acknowledge the impact of quality revision and time spent practising the retrieval of information at home.

To ensure the students achieve their full potential, I am asking parents to support their children in the following ways (the resources mentioned below are available to download from the school website <https://www.smithdonhigh.org.uk/supporting-your-child-through-gcses>):

- Spend 30 minutes in the evening discussing a simple revision plan with your child
- Repeatedly test your child on their ability to answer questions from the 50 Facts Booklets
- Look at proven ways to support your child's revision using strategies from the Learning Scientist
- Revisit the essential components of English and Mathematics, as seen in the Step up video
- Ensure your child has completed their post-16 application to either college or sixth form

In these challenging times our students are showing their resilience and determination to succeed. I am sure that, with our combined guidance and support, they will flourish and continue their journey towards great outcomes in the summer months of 2021.

Yours sincerely

**Mr M Knott**  
**Assistant Headteacher**

