



Smithdon High School
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Dear Parents

With the final round of Pre Public Examinations week commencing 31 January and only 17 school weeks until the start of the GCSE season, I write to advise you of a number of simple strategies which can increase progress and attainment. Please reinforce these with son or daughter to assist them in performing well.

- Ensure they have a simple, varied, timetable of revision made up of 15 minute blocks for each subject and that opportunities for downtime are incorporated. It is important that revision is active and takes place in a quiet environment.
- Continue to test them on the 50 question booklets. Just a couple of minutes each day will help to build on that knowledge bank.
- Reinforce the importance of attempting each and every question in the exam. If a student is presented with a purple pen during an exam they should attempt to build on and improve their responses.
- Please ensure that they arrive in school having eaten a suitable breakfast and are able to hydrate throughout the day. (clear bottle)
- Promote an open mind-set. A student that is prepared to try hard, make mistakes, reflect and improve is a student that will achieve well.
- Attend the post exam parents evening with your child to receive information and feedback regarding progress and improvements.
- Finally students need to understand the importance of the final round of mock examinations. If for any reason a student is unable to complete a final examination, mock data is often used to inform colleges and sixth forms as to the suitability of the candidate. This does happen and students need to be aware.

Working together, I am confident year 11 can achieve a set of results that students, parents and the school are extremely proud of. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Knott
Assistant Headteacher

