



Midhurst Rother College

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Part of United Learning

8 December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

THE FINAL PUSH

As we look forward to enjoying some rest and celebrations over Christmas, I am writing to you about the crucial spring term for your Year 11 child, that begins on Wednesday 3 January. In less than a month's time, our Year 11s will only have one precious school term left, in which to get ready to smash their exams!

As you know, the students have recently taken exams in every subject. They have had feedback in class about how they did, and what they need to do to improve. To help students understand how Results Day will feel next August, they do not receive overall grades for the November exams until our results afternoon on 12 December. Some students will be delighted with their grades whilst others may be shocked or disappointed, so it is vital to discuss the exam grades at home and with teachers. The students have an afternoon assembly and collect their progress reports and results (to bring home). Parents Evening is held online the next day from 4.30 - 8pm via School Cloud, on Wednesday 13 December. We would strongly recommend your son/daughter attend these appointments with you, to hear advice and discuss how to improve. You will also be sent a link to a short presentation from me, to listen to before/after appointments.

A progress report will also be supplied with the exam grades. This is a useful tool to guide your discussions and to help students see where to improve. The attitude to learning (ATL) scores are where every student can aim for top scores; bringing the correct equipment, arriving to class on time, engaging with the lessons and doing homework will help everyone realise their potential. If your child has ATL scores below four, please discuss and set targets at home for improving these. If your child is surprised or disappointed by their own ATLS, discuss this at parents' evening. If you have general academic concerns, I am happy to arrange a meeting with you in College to review how your child is working in class, on homework and any additional support they need.

Excellent attendance is also top priority this year. GCSE candidates cannot miss exams for minor ailments (the exam boards will only make concessions in very grave situations), so it's imperative to develop resilience and attend school every day, even if we have a winter cold for example. Prom points are awarded for every full week, with additional points for every full fortnight with no casual absences.

Staff will set students homework for the holidays, defined tasks that students should do to improve exam technique, address knowledge gaps and warm up for the spring term. Completion of these tasks to a high standard is expected. Students will be rewarded with Golden Tickets and prom points. A summary of tasks set is printed at the end of this letter.

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You are invited to an evening event on **Thursday 18 January**. This event, **“The Final Push”** is a series of hands-on sessions with the Directors of English, maths and science from 6.00 to 7.30pm. After a short introduction, we will work in smaller groups, to see **how** students can revise and practice effectively to achieve the best grades possible at GCSE. Some parents and students will be invited to an appointment that same evening with senior staff, for a personalised review of progress. The “Final Push” event is an enjoyable opportunity for students to put their parents through a few academic challenges!

Students will continue to sit internal exams in the spring term, refining exam technique and determining priorities for teaching and revision. Please see a summary of dates for the next half-term below. We offer lunchtime support sessions on homework every week for all subjects. In addition, teachers may contact you offering booster sessions, before/after the school day, at a weekend or in half-term week. Please encourage your child to take up all available support. Here are some dates for your diary;

- Weds 3 January, return to school and new tutor groups for morning masterclasses
- Thurs 11 January, English exams in College theatre
- Friday 12 January, science exams in College theatre
- 17-18 January, science exams in College theatre
- Thurs 18 January “The Final Push” evening event 6pm for parents and students

Attached is a summary of homework set for Year 11 students over the Christmas break, also on their Arbor assignments page in more detail.

With best wishes to all for a happy Christmas.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F Lunskey', written in a cursive style.

Mrs F Lunskey
Assistant Principal Raising Standards



Subject	Work Set
English (NPs)	Every Year 11 student has been given a booklet of key moments from Macbeth and A Christmas Carol. These are to be used over Christmas to complete the tasks that accompany each key moment. The booklets do not have to be completed but used in a productive way as a form of revision and to analyse the key features, language and the 'place' these key moments have in the play and the novel. Revise links in ideas and quotations, to these key moments, within the play and the novel.
Maths (JLe)	Y11 Maths Work - Students will be given two paper-based PinPoint booklets to complete. These booklets have been individually generated with topics that were weak on their mock papers. All topics have links to Sparx support videos and correct solutions are available online to check and to support understanding. All details will be listed on the front of their individual booklets.
Science (KNs)	Seneca will be set for paper 2 topics to revise for the TP3 assessment: Biology: Homeostasis, Chemistry: Rates of reaction and Physics: Forces. In addition, revise the required practicals in these topics by visiting Focus eLearning (link to login on Arbor). Write methods, do the virtual practical and record results and do any analysis tasks. -Reaction time -Rates of reaction -Forces and acceleration Golden tickets also available for this task.
MFL	Students must learn the "vital verbs" and question words by heart. Also, complete some practice of GCSE listening questions via exampro (details on Arbor)
History	Students must produce revision resources to cover Paper 2: Superpower Relations and the Cold War. They will be provided with A3 worksheets on Arbor to complete to aid this however they may choose to create mind maps/cue cards etc. Students should then complete the following exam style questions: Explain two consequences of the Prague Spring (2X4 marks) Write a narrative account analysing the years 1985-1991 -Gorbachev's 'new thinking' 1985 -The fall of the Berlin Wall, 1989 - You must also include information of your own 8 marks
Geography	We will be setting two workbooks to complete. They will be attached on Arbor - can send you copies if you want??
Business Studies	Setting tasks on SENECA, specifically on Finance which students struggled with in the Mocks, alongside this link to Businessstudies.net a revision site for business
Psychology (RHs)	I am setting an array of exam questions on two topics- 'Social Influence' and 'Language, Thought and Communication' and to revise for an end of topic assessment on 'Language, Thought and Communication' for Friday 5 January.
Sport (AHk)	Sport studies (Cambridge national) they will be set some revision resources including a sample paper. More details on Arbor.

Drama (VSn)	<p>Drama Homework for year 11 for Christmas Holidays:</p> <p><u>GCSE Drama Work</u></p> <p><u>Component 2</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) You need to have learnt your lines for BOTH extracts over Christmas. Make sure you refer to the set criteria for each of the three A02 marks. Develop your character and use your Examiner intentions to help you do this. You need to focus on how to develop these extracts through use of characterisation and your performance skills. Rehearse and practice at home and time them. 2) You need to write a report of your rehearsals at home. This should be on one side of A4 like a diary of your rehearsals. What you did and how you used the time to learn and practice your pieces. <p><u>Component 3</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3) Re-read DNA and look at the 14-marker question. Go through your revision cards/notes/books to check for subject specific terminology and structure to answering the question. Answer the 14-marker question on page 128 of your clown revision book. This should be under timed conditions (20 minutes) You will need to use your DNA from page 49-52. This answer MUST be handed in to me on the first lesson back.
Photography, art (Mrs Kinally), & textiles	<p>Complete any tasks still not done on current project including exam pieces. See Arbor for full details</p>
Art (Mrs Murray-Killan)	<p>Year 11 Art Students need to complete the following.</p> <p>Sketchbook 1 Portraits</p> <p>Sketchbook 2 Scale</p> <p>For each sketchbook there should be artist copies and information, a range of experiments in the artist styles (these are very important and should be of a high quality and show the students can use the art materials to a high standard), Photos for each artist and completed outcomes from the student’s photo in the artist style. Students should have developments of ideas for outcomes based on their experiments and their artists. These should take the form of drawings and paintings that showcase new ideas.</p> <p>Students should have also created a final outcome for each project that show cases their ideas and techniques coming together. This is A2 or A1 in size</p> <p>Students will begin a new project which is their exam in January.</p>
Product Design	<p>Complete ACCESSFM product analysis work set on Arbor.</p> <p>Seneca will be set for theory revision.</p> <p>Anyone who has not completed questionnaire and received responses needs to finish this over the holiday.</p>
Food Tech	<p>Use the candidate assessment pack to help you evaluate your two coursework tasks. Come to class with 3 proposals ready for how you will improve your coursework.</p>
Music	<p><u>Exam prep</u></p> <p>Focus on Sound 2 – 3 times a week. Focus on the areas highlighted in your recent paper. Create revision cards on “DR SMITH” ensuring that you have the correct terminology for each element.</p> <p>Revise Mozart’s clarinet concerto and Little Shop of Horrors set works.</p> <p><u>Performances</u> – These are due on 8th January. You need to have a complete solo and ensemble performance ready to record (this is your REAL one!) If you are recording with teachers, please make sure I know when and with who.</p> <p><u>Composition</u> – Continue reworking and refining your free and brief composition. If you haven’t started, begin notating or writing these out.</p>
Computer Science	<p>Year 11 Computer Science should be spending time completing quiz questions on Smart Revise, a minimum of 200 Quiz Questions, and 100 Terms.</p>