



GCSE 2015

Year 11 Preparation Newsletter - 13 weeks to go - are you ready!!!!

13TH February

**Coursework
Deadline**

Super Learning Day (SLD) 3rd February 2015

On Tuesday students will have SLD. This will be an important day for our year 11 students, as they have been divided up into different faculties according to their GCSE needs. In MFL they will be working towards a Controlled Assessment, whereas in ICT for example they are preparing for an imminent GCSE Exam. To find out more, speak to your child. Students have been informed where they will be based for the day.

24th February

**Exam Preparation Even-
ing with Goodie Bag for
Parents to attend**



[Show My Homework](http://www.showmyhomework.co.uk)

Show My Homework

Teachers are still posting homework on this website. If you or your child needs the user name or password, you can now contact homework@springwoodhighschool.co.uk

Provisional Timetable

The Provisional Examinations Timetable 2015 can now be viewed and downloaded from our website. Your child received a copy in which non applicable examinations (A Level etc) were removed. Please be aware the timetable is still subject to change.

2nd–13th March

**Pre-external
Examinations**

Revision Timetable

A new revision timetable can be downloaded from our Website. Students have been given a personal copy and were asked to glue it into their planner for easy reference. The revision sessions are still referred to as Lesson 6 and Lesson 7. If a certain subject is not listed, then your child should speak to the subject teacher, as support sessions are frequently offered if

26th March

**Progress Evening with
subject teachers**

VLE

If your child would like additional revision material, then please make use of our VLE site (link on our website). Students received their personal log on details in a personal letter. Our VLE site is still expanding, but additional resources/past papers and booklets can be viewed or even downloaded if preferred.

5th May

**Exams Begin
First Exam—English**

Alton Towers

On 27th March 2015 we will be visiting Alton Towers (a reward trip for our YEAR 11 students). In the past this has been a very fun and fabulous day celebrating achievement and hard work before the bulk of the examinations commence. By this time students will have completed all of their Controlled assessments and should be completing revision after school either in Lesson 6 & 7 or at home. For students to attend the trip they must complete the Alton Towers Pass Challenge. Students will have an assembly explaining the criteria.

Controlled Assessments

Until February Half Term students and staff are still working diligently on Controlled Assessments. The deadline varies from one subject to another- but overall Controlled Assessments will be completed by 13th February. Please encourage your child to work with us in ensuring they attend support sessions and complete the accompanying homework. Controlled Assessments have a significant influence on the GCSE result. All this hard work

Linked Pair (Maths/English)

Many students have successfully passed English/Maths Exam. However they still need to pass the additional Paper. (English = English Language AND English Literature) (Maths = Methods Paper AND Applications Paper). If your child has passes one of the Maths Exams then your child still needs to secure a grade for the other paper. Please feel free to contact us if you have any further questions.

Tutor Time

Students spend 25 minutes a day in Tutor Time (after second lesson). This is a very busy session for your child. Many departments are running intervention and support sessions. This will often appear as flags on your Parent Gateway Pop Ups as a daily message. The remaining time is divided into RE and Science intervention/revision.. Students are working on their RE revision books, providing modal answers to low mark as well as high mark questions. For the days dedicated to Science, students have workbooks /quizzes and worksheets to revisit the material they have covered. Please can you make sure your child brings their SCIENCE REVISION BOOK IN TO SCHOOL EVERY DAY, as some students like to take them home.

The Form Tutor also Academically Appraises your child (discusses the latest report, offers supports and keeps track of the day to day running of the Tutor Group). We are very fortunate here at Springwood to have been given the opportunity to place our YEAR 11 in horizontal tutor groups with Lead Tutors to help support your child during this important academic year.

Dear Parent/Guardian

During Tutor time this week your child has been given the task to analyse their latest report and plan a revision timetable for the next fortnight. It would be most helpful if you could discuss your child's revision plan with them. I have included some bullet points that you might find useful when making a realistic and successful revision plan with your child

DESIGNING THE REVISION PLAN

A revision timetable tells you what you need to revise each day and puts you in control of your revision. Don't worry if at any point you get behind. By working towards revising all topics by your first exam, you can catch up between exams.

Key topics to consider:

Controlled Assessments are highest priority- what still needs to be completed and when /where can this be done? School session/evening session at home.

English and Maths (both Papers)

- are the predicted grades as strong as they could be? Would a weekly/fortnightly session help boost confidence and secure understanding?

Aim to get at least 5 GCSEs at Target Minimum Grade (TMG). How many are you predicted to get? How secure do you feel in your subjects?

Focus on 'easy win' subjects first. If a C3 is predicted for a subject (C3=weak) revision would be highly recommended to secure the grade. Grade D1 (high D- very close to a C) / D could move up a category with a structured revision plan/ asking for help from teachers.

EQUIPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT SET UP

Get a set of files especially for revision / a selection of pens/high lighters/paper/POST-IT notes etc

File your school notes in the relevant folders or workbooks- so your school work is organised.

Get revision material for each subject of your subjects (use VLE site/school shop/ask teachers for material)

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

When deciding where to revise at home- remember that positive learning environments have four principal qualities: SPACE- Trying to revise in a cluttered room can make you feel tense and claustrophobic. Good revision environments have enough floor and desk space.

LIGHT- The work space should have plenty of natural light or get a nice new desk lamp

Noise- The sound of radios/TVs /people talking and mobile phones can make it difficult to read, think and concentrate. Try and keep the noise to a minimum.

Temperature- Very warm rooms can make you feel agitated or sleepy. Keep the temperature down or open the window for a few minutes. It is better to wear warm clothes in a cool room than to attempt to revise in a very warm room.

BREAKS/REWARDS AND PRAISE

Be sure to take mini breaks between revision session and spend a few minutes having a chat/cup of tea/a quick game or a quick walk with the dog. Reward /praise your child for the work completed, as this can be a very stressful and difficult time!

Staff are always here to help and we have a drop in center F10 that students can do to either at break/lunch or after school.

If I can offer any assistance then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards

Mrs Susan Curcillo

Raising Achievement Leader