

Our Ref: PRC/JYD

31 March 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well. It's been a short but intense half term and preparation for terminal exams are well under way.

Year 11 & 13 Easter School

In order to ensure that each and every student has the best opportunity to fulfil their academic potential we will be putting on a series of subject sessions during the Easter holidays. Students should arrive 10 minutes before a session begins and register in their designated subject area. Information regarding subjects and rooms will be displayed throughout Easter at the Main Visitor Entrance.

We would appreciate if you could encourage your child to attend if they have been invited. These sessions are specifically planned to be a positive, productive and supportive experience. Easter classes have proven to be vital in previous years ensuring that students enter the final stage fully prepared. During the sessions, students will be either completing coursework or recapping topics to support their revision at home. May I publicly thank those staff who have agreed to run these sessions.

Final Countdown

Following the return to school after the Easter break, we have only a few weeks before examinations commence. Year 11 students have received the Final Countdown booklet detailing revision sessions that have already started and subject hints and tips to guide their revision. It is imperative that students invest at least two hours revision each school night and a minimum of three hours at weekends to revise. It would be beneficial if you could check that their revision is active, regular and escalates as the exam period approaches.

Year 13 students will be used to independent study and revision by now. In school we have extended silent study to Period 3 to ensure the environment in communal areas is conducive to learning. Academic Mentoring has also begun for a select cohort of students alongside departmental revision sessions.

Having delivered a revision session myself yesterday I am very impressed with how seriously students are taking it and the motivation they have to do well.

Year 12 Mock Study Leave

Year 12 mock examinations run from the 17th – 24th April. There will be study leave for the mock exam week from 17th-21st April for students taking A Level subjects. If they have an exam on the afternoon of Monday 24th April, they will also be given study leave in the morning. There will be no Registration for any students from 17th-21st April. All students MUST attend all vocational lessons during the mock period unless they have an exam in the afternoon.

Preit Chahal Principal

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Uniform

A reminder that trainers are not permitted to be worn unless accompanied by a medical note. In the event of shoes being lost or broken students will have one day to get this rectified. Please do contact the pastoral teams should you need support with this as we do have a small stock in school. Last time I wrote to you I said we were reviewing our jewellery policy so that there was more clarity. After May half term only the wearing of a watch will be permitted; no earrings or rings will be allowed. We will remind students about this over the course of next half term.

TIMSS (Trends in Maths & Science Study) testing- Year 9

Gosforth Academy were one of the schools randomly selected for TIMSS tests which are international assessments that monitor trends in student achievement. Two classes were selected for the study which schools must administer.

Whilst the results do not count for anything the research is vital and student conduct was exemplary. Below is what the external TIMSS administrator said:

The students who took part were excellent and contributed massively to the session being smoothly and successfully effected. It is very easy to criticise young people so let me take this opportunity to offer due praise. They showcased themselves and the school in a really positive way. Behaviour was exemplary and they worked hard to address each and every question fully. As I noted at the time this was comfortably the easiest TIMSS session I have administered. I was delighted to have witnessed it and to have shared such a good experience. The 100% attendance tells me the pupils are happy to be at the school.

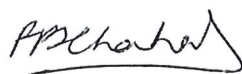
National Champions!

Finally, I am delighted to report that our squash players went down to Birmingham for the National Championships. Our Key Stage 3 Girls and Boys finished 3rd and 4th place respectively which is a fabulous achievement. The following day our Key Stage 4 Girls defended their title by beating Epsom College in the final! Well done to all players involved and thanks go to Richard Vitty (coach) and Academy colleagues who made the trip possible. There are many other successes I could share with you but it's not every day you can say Gosforth Academy is the best in the country at something!

A reminder that school will close today at 12:25pm and re-open at 9:30am on Monday 17th April.

Wishing everyone a restful break.

Yours sincerely,



Preit Chahal
Principal