20 November 2018
Dear Parents and Carers

Key Stage 4 - Independent Study

As you will be aware students will not be in school on Thursday 22 and Friday 23 November. As your son/daughter is in Key Stage 4 it is important that they are utilising these days to complete some independent learning.

This would be an ideal time for your son/daughter to kick start their revision. Please direct your son/daughter to the Key Stage 4 revision pages on the Rickmansworth School website, where they will be able to find revision resources for each subject. These resources include revision notes, practice test papers and mark schemes which will play an essential role in improving your son/daughter’s ability to revise effectively.

As you will be aware, we advise that students revise with a ‘little and often approach’ throughout the year, rather than trying to ‘cram revise’ the night before an exam.

Example of effective revision session

- 20 minutes on GCSE Pod revising specific topic from chosen subject.
- 20 minutes attempting to answer exam questions on that topic.
- 20 minutes using the mark scheme to mark your answer and writing any amendments in a purple pen.

For most students, this approach will be far more effective than just reading over notes in their book for an hour. Further tips and advice are also available on the Key Stage 4 student page which can be accessed via this link http://www.rickmansworth.herts.sch.uk/779/students/key-stage-4

In order to allow your son/daughter to revise thoroughly for the trial exams, no home learning will be set from Monday 26 November other than revision. To further support your son/daughter’s exam preparation all lessons in the week before the Trial Exams will be revision focused.

After the Trial Exams we will be hosting another Parent Information Evening (date to be confirmed shortly). This event will provide further guidance from the Key Stage 4 team and our Educational Psychologist Dr. Martijn Van Der Spoel on how to best support your son/daughter in the final few months before their GCSE exams. Feedback from parents for Dr. Martijn Van Der Spoel’s previous information evening was exceptional and we strongly recommend that all parents attend. Guidance on how to book your place will be provided in the near future.
We appreciate your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Nelson

Director of Learning for Key stage 4