



Nunthorpe
Academy

10 October 2023

Dear Parent(s) / Carer(s) of Year 11

After a busy start to term and five weeks into Year 11 study I thought it appropriate to update you on important information for the year group.

Attendance - Firstly I would like to thank all students for the very positive start to the year they have made. I am taking the opportunity to 'learning walk' Year 11 lessons daily to ensure that they are making the most of the learning opportunities available, that they are engaged and maximising their potential.

- Congratulations to the:
- 130 students who currently have 100% attendance.
- Of those 130, 82 have also been on time for every session.
- 89 students have zero behaviour points
- 101 students already have over 150 achievement points

However, I would also like to take the opportunity to remind Year 11 that our attendance target is 96%, without being present you cannot learn to your full ability.

The year group's attendance cumulative attendance is currently **90.4%** (for first five weeks of term), Year 11 week 5 attendance was 88.2%, this is an improvement of 1.6% on week 4. However still significantly needs to improve.

Every day at Nunthorpe Academy contains 5½ hours of learning time, including a minimum of one hour each of English and maths. Learning takes place in the classroom. National studies completed in 2019 show:

- 83.7% of students with 100% attendance achieved at least a GCSE grade 4 in English and maths
- 35.6% of students with 90% attendance or lower, achieved at least a grade 4 in English and maths.

This is a staggering statistic and shows why it is so important that our students attend. However, it is not too late to make a difference and improve.

Please try to support us in improving your child's life chances by sending them in every day and making any medical appointments outside of the school day and potentially after 4.00pm so that intervention sessions can also be attended to support.

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Ready, Respectful, Safe





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Intervention sessions 3.00-4.00pm

SUBJECT	TEACHER
ART	LV
BUSINESS	FH
CHILD DEVELOPMENT	LM
ENGLISH X2	HD, EEW
FOOD	KHH
FRENCH	ELW
GEOGRAPHY X2	DT, KW
GERMAN X3	KLC, ALG,
HEALTH & SOCIAL	KB
HISTORY X4	JEC, MJ, PHB, RP
MATHS X2	CG, SH
PE X2	SP, ASM
SCIENCE	VP
SPANISH	ASM
TECHNOLOGY/ ENGINEERING X2	SH, KTG

Attendance at extra intervention started well with 91% of students attending but week ending 22.09.23 this dropped to 62% with 63 out of the invited 101 students attending.

Please check Class Charts to see which interventions your child has been invited to. These are sessions with no more than 6 students invited to be able to target individualised progress. If your child does not engage then staff will provide this offer to an alternative student to maximise progress.

Intervention Cycle 2 will begin first week back after October half term. Students and parents/carers will be informed before the October half term.

Subject top tips for success in the upcoming Year 11 trial exams Monday 13 November until Friday 24 November:

Year 11 Modern Foreign Languages trial speaking exams start Monday 16 October.

ART

1. Always draw from observation or your own photos, never from your imagination.
2. Make sure annotation is in your own words- talk about the work that you have produced rather than facts and figures about the artist.
3. Always act on advice given- our GCSE is tailored to meet all assessment objectives so listen when we advise you, we know our subject really well!



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BUSINESS (NCFE)

1. Understand structure of exam questions
2. Know all key terms
3. Practice exam questions

Useful links: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DqWfISZYAM> - How to answer exam questions for NCFE

CHILD DEVELOPMENT (Cambridge National)

1. NEA - Keep up to date, use the modelled answers and all available resources to help you
2. Use the mark schemes provided to guide you on the content needed in the NEA
3. Exam - Practice lots of exam papers and how to structure answers. Create key word sheets

COMPUTER SCIENCE

1. Little and often- you will get more out of revision by doing a little, often rather than trying to cram it in in one go
2. Make your revision interactive- simply reading the revision guide is not effective. Do some revision and test yourself
3. There are easy marks for every topic. Do you know the basics that you will pick you marks for?

Useful sites:

Practice coding: <https://www.pythonsponge.com/tpages.html>

Practice binary/denary/hex: <https://tools.withcode.uk/binarychallenge/>

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY (GCSE)

1. Remember all those practical skills you've learnt in Year 10 can appear in your exams as theory.
2. Take time to carefully read and understand the questions especially the subject specific words
3. Make sure to glance back at the questions to make sure you fully understand what the question is asking you to do

DRAMA (GCSE)

1. When participating in practical work, ensure that you have the appropriate energy and enthusiasm for the role(s) you are portraying. There's no room for anything that is only half considered; half consideration = half marks!



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2. Ensure that you constantly take a 'step out' of any practical work, whether this be a scripted extract or devised performance. Putting yourself in the seat of a director will help you enormously to 'see what they see' when assessing you!
3. Make sure that you are beginning to absorb yourself in the set text for this year's written examination, 'An Inspector Calls'. Doing this will mean that you have a greater depth of knowledge within the examination (trial and real) and therefore have much more detail in your written responses.

ENGINEERING (BTEC)

1. Remember all those practical skills you learnt in Year 10 can appear in your exams as theory
2. Take time to carefully read and understand the questions especially the subject specific words
3. Make sure to glance back at the questions to make sure you fully understand what the question is asking you to do

ENGLISH (GCSE)

1. Create flashcards to learn the key quotes for Literature
2. Watch the catch-up videos in the Google Classroom
3. Read a book to relax for 15 minutes every night

FOOD PREPARATION and NUTRITION (GCSE)

1. NEA - Complete the most challenging and skillful practical dishes you can do, practice at home first
2. Keep up to date, use the modelled answers and all available resources to help you
3. Exam - Create key word sheets on the five main topics

GEOGRAPHY (GCSE)

1. Aim to remember a minimum of six facts for each case study. If the revision guide splits this information into social, economic and environmental categories, learn at least two of each - this way you can answer any question on the topic with facts to back your answer up.
2. Revise steadily and strategically - colour code your revision list and focus on what you struggle to remember first as this will have the most impact.
3. Test regularly. Each time you start revising, test yourself on what you revised last time. If you can't recall the information - return to it.

HEALTH and SOCIAL CARE (BTEC)

1. PSA - Keep up to date, use the mark schemes provided to guide you on the content needed
2. Provide lots of examples in your PSA to explain the points you have made



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3. Exam - Practice lots of exam papers and how to structure answers as many of the questions are always the same

HISTORY (GCSE)

- 1) **Revise in small chunks, but often.** Revision works best in small chunks (say 20-25 minutes at a time). This helps the information to stay in your brain, and hopefully prevents you getting bored. So, try to do shorter revision sessions, more frequently (at least once a day).
- 2) **Don't just read the Revision Guides.** You will find that the information that you need will be easier to recall if you have actively used it in revision. For example, you could write your own revision notes/ make flashcards/ use friends or family to quiz you/ use the read-cover-write-check technique. Ask your history teacher about these, and other, effective revision techniques.
- 3) **In the exam: Have a go!** When exam answers are being marked, the examiner/ teacher is trying to find you all the marks that they can. They won't "take marks off" if you write down something incorrect. So, it's always best to write as much as you can for every answer, even if you are not 100% sure it is correct or relevant. This way, you'll at least stand a chance of getting some marks!

All of our GCSE History lessons, plus the textbooks and Revision Guides, can be found in the History section of Google Classroom. The entry codes are:

Year 10 (American West/ Normans/ Medicine topics) = **zn2qzvy**

Year 11 (Historic Environment/ USA 1954-75) = **x5mycoa**

LIFE (LIBF qualification)

1. Learn Key words (if you don't know what the question is about how will you answer?)
2. Learn Command words (this is the exam boards way of telling you what they expect to see in your answer and they are different for each subject)
3. Link real life examples - link what you have learnt in the classroom to real life examples out of school (this helps to cement knowledge and makes it easier to recall in an exam situation)

Students can access all the content needed for the exam, revision activities and more importantly their results at www.libf.ac.uk

MATHS (GCSE)

1. The best way to revise GCSE Maths is to DO lots of maths.

To get good at maths, you need to do LOTS of practice. You may need to do a bit of reading or watching videos to get started but spend as much time as you can attempting questions.



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Don't leave it until the exams are in sight; little and often, throughout the year, is the way to go!

2. Revise lots of different topics in rotation

Try to revise GCSE Maths for a short time every day so that you keep a variety of topics fresh in your mind. Corbett maths 5-a-day is perfect for this, with sets of questions at several levels ranging from basic numeracy to the top GCSE grades, covering every day for an entire year. The online version is free, and you can buy it in workbook form now too. (I don't have a vested interest; I just think it's a brilliant resource.)

3. Try some exam questions, fill in the gaps, then go back and try again.

As soon as you feel reasonably confident with a topic area, start working on exam (or exam-style) questions. Great resources for this are the exam question collections by topic on Mr Barton maths, Maths4Everyone, MathsGenie and JustMaths. All four provide solutions.

When you've attempted a few questions, compare your answers with the solutions or mark schemes and try to work out what mistakes you made. (But bear in mind that the solutions provided are not necessarily the only correct approach; there may be five or six possible ways of answering a question. Also, there are occasional errors in the JustMaths solutions, as they were compiled very quickly when the new GCSE spec was launched.)

If you can't work it out on your own then ask someone for help.

Then put the exam questions aside and go away and work on any bits you need to – for this I suggest using the “Videos and Worksheets” page on Corbettmaths or Mr Barton maths, though those are by no means the only options.

When you're feeling a bit more confident, come back and have another go at some exam questions.

Links of websites mentioned above (we study the AQA curriculum):

Mr Barton maths: <https://mrbartonmaths.com/exams/gcse/>

Maths4Everyone: <https://www.maths4everyone.com/>

MathsGenie: <https://www.mathsgenie.co.uk/>

JustMaths: <https://justmaths.co.uk/>

CorbettMaths: <https://corbettmaths.com/>

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES – French, German and Spanish

1. Thoroughly revise Top Ten verbs & Transferable Language
2. Learn speaking questions off-by-heart
3. Revise key topic vocabulary little and often

Useful links: bbc.co.uk/bitesize



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quizlet.com (then search Nunthorpe Academy and language)

MUSIC (GCSE)

1. It is essential to listen to the set works so that you know them inside and out. The listening paper can pick any part of any set work; you need to know at what part of the song/piece you are listening to
2. Make sure that you can say what MAD TSHIRT stands for and can link it to your listening exercises. Every single musical element is important and shows a wider understanding of the fundamentals of music
3. Practice your essay questions; they are specific so don't ramble on about something that is unnecessary. Remember your English work on how to set out an essay, as grammar and punctuation is also important. If you can't remember a musical term for something, describe it! It still counts.

PE – (GCSE and VCERT)

1. **Make a list of key words and write a definition for each one.** If it asks for a practical example remember to link it to a specific sport and skill where possible
2. **Look at command words** and what is expected from you in the question. Use your highlighter to highlight the word within the exam
3. **Using techniques given** in model answers remember to give enough valid points for the marks available

Links and attachments have already been sent out via Class Charts and Google classroom and are included in the revision timetable already shared.

PHILOSOPHY and ETHICS (GCSE)

1. Produce a quotation sheet containing for each topic and try to include some that can be used across different topics (i.e. 'Thou shalt not kill' can be used in 'Religion and Life' and 'Religion, Crime & Punishment').
2. Ensure that you can explain the importance of beliefs and practices (i.e. 'Why it is practiced?' 'What is its purpose?')
3. Demonstrate specialist terminology. (For example, rather than writing duty on the Hinduism exam paper, write dharma. This demonstrates to the examiner that you know your religion, but also allows you to gain some SPAG marks in the 12 mark question).

SCIENCE (GCSE)

1. Read the questions twice, circle any numbers given in the question as you read it.
2. Use a calculator
3. For all calculations, write the formula out (you will be given a list), Insert the values, Fine-tune (simplify and rearrange), Answer (check if it needs to be 2 or 3 sig fig) remember FIFA.



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- Mr Purcifer, Year 11 Progress Lead is currently creating a revision document to support progress towards Year 11 final exams, this will be shared w/c 23 October. Over the coming weeks Mr Armstrong and Mr Purcifer will be delivering assemblies on how to revise and how to organise a revision timetable.

Other useful information:

- Year 11 Modern Foreign Languages trial speaking exams 1 start Monday 16 October
- Trial exam set 1 Monday 13 November until Friday 24 November - Results of November mocks will be shared with students and parents/carers before the Christmas break
- DC1 data reports will be shared following October half term. Following DC1 it is likely that some students will change to a different tutor intervention group
- Trial speaking exams start Monday 22 January 2024
- Trial exam set 2, Monday 19 February until Friday 1 March

It was lovely to see so many of our students attending the Sixth Form Open Evening, applications for 2024/2025 are now being accepted, please use the link below to access the application form:- <https://forms.gle/iLsDvAbj46W7Xmvi6> Deadline for applications is Friday 8 December 2023

If you have any concerns regarding your child's progress please ensure emails are directed to subject teachers in the first instance. All emails are on the academy website. <https://www.nunthorpe.co.uk/staff/>

Here's wishing you and your child every success in making this year count.

Yours sincerely

Kate Kell
Head of School

KK/JSO