



BORDEN

GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Borden Grammar School
Avenue of Remembrance
Sittingbourne
ME10 4DB

7 May 2019

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Examinations for Years 7, 8 and 9

The end of year exams for Years 7 – 9 are fast approaching and your son will bring home a copy of the exam timetable this week; you can also find it on our website under 'Exams / Exam Timetables'.

The exams for Art, Music and ICT (Years 7 and 8 only) will mostly take place in the lessons for those subjects before half term, beginning Monday 20 May. Exams in all other subjects begin after the half term holiday. Term starts again on Monday 3 June and the exams begin on Tuesday 4 June. Note that Year 9 students will only sit exams in Mathematics, English and the Sciences as the exams for their Options subjects took place in December.

During the rest of this term, teachers will be advising students about what to revise for their exams, and it is important that the boys do prepare properly for these exams. Building up good revision techniques and developing confidence in how to learn material for exams takes time and practice. The revision your son does for these exams is an important stage in strengthening the skills which will enable him to reach his full potential in GCSE exams in due course. The boys who develop a range of strategies now, and experience the satisfaction of doing well in exams, will be able to take GCSEs and other public exams in their stride in years to come.

There are lots of ways you can help your son to develop good revision strategies. It can be helpful to encourage him to work somewhere where you can offer him support from time to time. Planning how long a revision session will last, and then having a planned break (perhaps for a snack) may help him to maintain focus. Short, active revision sessions are best, whereas if your son spends long spells just staring at his books it is unlikely that he will take much in.

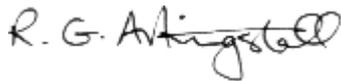
Some of the active techniques he may find useful include:

1. Making a list of topics and writing 5 or 10 key facts about each one (perhaps using his book to help him first time round, and then trying again later with his books closed).
2. Explaining a topic to an interested listener (a parent!) who will encourage him with questions – explaining out loud is a great way to make sure you really understand something.
3. Writing a spider diagram or mind map with key terms or ideas/examples.
4. Putting information in columns with, say, a key term in one column and a definition in the next. (This works for learning vocabulary in languages too). Then try covering one column and seeing if you can remember what was in it.

5. Writing a bullet point summary of a topic and keeping it, so that it can then be used for last minute revision later.
6. Practising examples or questions from the textbook in subjects such as Maths.
7. Writing a timetable of dates in History.
8. Going on to Moodle to look at information put there by departments.
9. Making revision 'flip cards' with questions on one side and answers on the other. Research has shown this to be very effective.
10. Using a revision website such as BBC Bitesize which is full of games and activities to help make learning easier.

We understand that this is potentially a stressful time for students. Our aim is to encourage them to establish some effective preparation habits and to cope with examinations in a positive and productive way, as they will become regular and important features of their educational life. If you feel that your son is finding the pressure of exams too much, please contact either his Head of Year or his Form Tutor to help reassure him about the nature of these tests.

Yours faithfully,



Mr R G Artingstoll
Assistant Headteacher