



14 October 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

Update for October 2019

Last week you should have received your son/daughter's progress check; please can you ensure you have gone through it with them and have discussed, not only which areas they are doing well in, but also which curriculum areas need more attention. This discussion helps with future action planning. Additionally, within the progress check was an invitation to **Parents' Evening** which is scheduled for **Wednesday 16 October**. This is a very important night where staff can discuss your son/daughter's progress with you, and also what else needs to be done to ensure the best possible outcomes. With only seven months remaining before they sit their final examinations, this dialogue is crucial. If you are having any issues booking appointments, please contact the school.

There is no escaping the fact that revising for GCSE exams involves many hours of personal study, and the mock examinations are no different. Your son/daughter's mock examinations will commence at the beginning of December, and will give all parties the necessary information on their strengths and areas needed for future development. It is crucial they approach these exams in a mature and logical manner as this will set the foundation of revision for their final examinations commencing in May. I will be asking all teachers of Year 11 to post on SMHW which topic areas will be being assessed as this will prevent any time being wasted on areas not being covered.

Before your son/daughter starts revising they need to make sure they have a complete set of notes for each subject. Students need to be careful that they don't spend too much time on subjects they like or are good at and neglect their less favoured subjects. It should be noted that most topics they study will have to be revised more than once, tested regularly and often several times before the information sinks in. We have been concentrating on this a lot at school and we call it retrieval - a term your son/daughter should be aware of.

Over the half term break we need your help with the following, please:

- Get your son/daughter to check that all their class notes are up to date, with no gaps.
- If they are unsure about the topics they have studied, suggest they email or ask their subject teachers for a list.
- Encourage them to work on those areas where they feel less confident and the subjects/topics they don't like, as well as the subjects/topics they like and are good at.

I have further information about the **Parents' Information Evening** scheduled for **Thursday 7 November** 6.00 – 7.45pm. As mentioned previously, this will be a carousel workshop-based evening in which you and your son/daughter can go to those curriculum areas where additional help, support or more information may be required to ensure examination success. I will be sending out the workshops to you by the end of this week when they have been finalised. I would strongly recommend attending this evening with your son/daughter as this will help with the revision process, and will also give you the necessary information to support them at home during this time. If you would like to attend, please email me direct at mataylor@plymstockschool.org.uk with the number of places required by Tuesday 5 November 2019 at the very latest.

I look forward to seeing you this Wednesday for Parents' Evening.

Yours sincerely



Mark Taylor
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Calendared events:

16.10.19 Year 11 Parents' Evening
07.11.19 Parents' Information Evening