

As the PPE2s are now finished and results are coming in, I would hope that all students are revising regularly at home and making use of the extra revision classes being held after school.

The timing is now crucial and every moment spent doing something extra will make a difference to performance in the forthcoming examinations. I would encourage all students and parents/carers to contact staff of specific subjects for guidance with revision, if it is needed. There is still plenty of time to make a difference - remember not to break the chain, do something by way of revision every day.

Please take a moment to read the item on *Parent Guide to Getting Through the Exams*. The GCSE examinations begin soon and there are some suggestions as to how you can survive the exam season.

**Mrs Sarah Evison**  
**Head of Year 11**

## DATES

**26 March: GCSE Dance Examination**

**26 March: GCSE PE Moderation**

**27 March: GCSE Practical Drama Examination**

**16 April: (week of) – PPE2 results**

**18 April: Year 11 Parents Evening - Preparing for Success**

**18/19 April: GCSE Art Examination**

**27 April: PiXL Mathematics Conference**

**2/3 May: English Conference**

**3 & 16 May: GCSE French Speaking Examination**

**DATES TO BE CONFIRMED: Macbeth Live Streaming\***

\* Both the Royal Shakespeare Company and the National Theatre are staging *Macbeth* with both productions sold out. However, the RSC version will be streamed into cinemas and we are looking to have it streamed into school, but this is yet to be confirmed. We highly recommend students watching one or both of the cinema versions. Tickets are on sale from both Southend and Basildon cinemas.

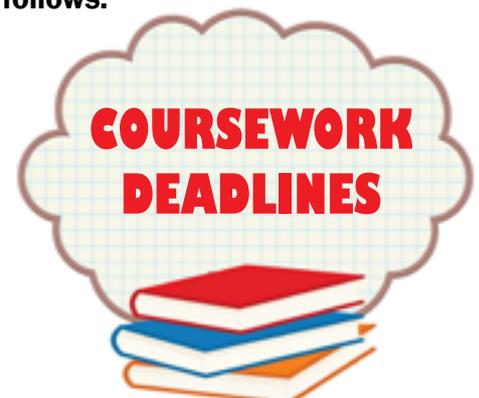
**The remaining dates for students to hand in GCSE Coursework are as follows:**

**PE: 26 March**

**Design & Technology/Product Design - Folders: 29 March**

**Design & Technology/Hospitality: 29 March**

**Art: - 18 May**



## Revision Timetable

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Night of the week</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Topic / format</u>
Science	Thursday	D17	Rotation of topics. Some teacher input, past exam questions, recall questions
Maths	Tuesday	F9	Rotation of topics – please see poster in the maths corridor for the topic list.
English	Mondays / Thursdays	English class-rooms	Students can choose to attend on Mondays or Thursdays as the sessions will be the same. Key areas such as analysis, evaluation, comparison and context will be the focus – students are expected to re-read and test themselves on Literature texts independently using the resources on SMHW.
History	Tuesday	E6	Rotation of topics. Some teacher input, past exam questions, recall questions, knowledge and skill based activities
RE	Monday	E3	Some teacher input, past exam questions, recall questions.  <b>If there is a topic that's students are struggling with, they can request this to be covered during these sessions.</b>
Sociology	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	V2	Grade booster revision session - serious about success. Covering unit 1 and 2
Applied Business	Monday	S6	Rotation of topics.  Past exam questions, exam practice
H&SC	Monday	V6/ V8 MY	Some teacher input, past exam questions, recall questions  Coursework
Child development	Monday	V6/ V8 TH	Some teacher input, past exam questions, recall questions  Coursework
GCSE Design and Technology - One hour session.	Tuesdays, starting 20th March.	A5 and A4 BR and JRO	Rotation of exam topics. Past exam questions, recall questions.
GCSE French	Monday	C3	Speaking practice prior to May orals. Reading and listening past papers
PE	Friday	M3	Revision – past papers

## Digital Footprint and Employability

The school will shortly be issuing a newsletter on E-Safety to all parents/carers. This will cover the issues surrounding the use of technology and how our students are presenting themselves online. Many of our Year 11 students will soon be applying for jobs or apprenticeships and it is important to ensure that when they do so, their online profiles are professional.

Employers will sometimes check the online presence of a student before hiring, and if there is anything they don't like, it can influence their decision. Here are a few rules to follow:

- Ensure there are no inappropriate images of the student online. These types of image are an immediate red flag to employers.
- Delete any negative posts. If the student has said anything online that they now regret, go back and delete the post. Sometimes this isn't possible, but check to see if it is.
- Make sure that your profile image is appropriate. A professional and appropriate profile image will help demonstrate that you are a good candidate for a job role.



## Revision Apps

In Science, the *Tassomai* app is used by students to revise for their GCSEs and is continuing to make a difference to their grade outcomes.

The program is based around multiple choice style micro-quizzes built from the syllabuses of each exam board. Students answer quizzes and the program algorithm adapts for each user, tailoring them accordingly. They should be logging and completing 5-10 minutes every day to keep up with daily targets and to get the most out of the program.

Science teachers at KES have introduced challenge competitions during school holidays to encourage continued interaction and over the half term holiday, 3 students, Archie, Tyler and Elizabeth each won a £10 voucher for the highest percentage progress in the year group. A similar competition is taking place over the Easter holiday.

Mathematics students are engaging well with the PiXL app and are enjoying the independence that it encourages. They are given homework on a regular basis via the app and Year 11 students have the added advantage of valuable statistics from their own examinations, helping them target their revision and practice in the most efficient way. There is a recent upgrade and the Mathematics Faculty are looking forward to introducing students to the new material.

A brand new app, *PiXL Times Tables*, has been launched via *Show My Homework* and students are working hard to get to the top of the participation leader board. The app records every question tried, with Housepoints awarded to those who have worked on 500 plus questions in the first week. Some students have done so well that they recorded over 2000 questions!

The PiXL Independence packs can be sourced by students at: <https://students.pixl.org.uk> using their log in details.

## PPE2 Feedback

The Pre-Public Examinations are now completed and all data will be sent to parents after the Easter break. Some students will have already discussed their individual results with their subject teachers. General feedback on specific subjects is as follows:

### *Modern Foreign Languages*

Students performed well in this subject and produced their best work to date on the written paper. More work needs to be done on listening and reading skills, to prepare for the oral sections of the summer examinations.

### *Sociology*

Well done to the students who revised and grasped the opportunity to use the provided revision material for the PPE2s - they have made clear improvements.

### *Design & Technology*

In 9 individual cases we have had particular success with students gaining the very top grades. It has shown that with serious revision, target grades can be achieved - well done. To those who did not quite meet their target grades, work with your teachers on the final project folder pages.

### *Business, ICT & Applied Learning*

All students taking these subjects should now be aware of the results. For the majority there has been an improvement from PPE1 results and evidence that revision was thorough and comprehensive. This revision needs to be continued right up to the final examinations to receive a target grade or higher. For some, there is still a need for more solid and regular revision and if help is needed to put together a revision timetable, please ask subject teachers. The PPE2s will give an indication on what topics should be focused on first.

Results from the PPE2s help to design revision programmes both in school and by way of using external study opportunities. Students can reflect on their personal strengths and weaknesses following feedback to adapt their personal revision timetables. Remember, there are lots of resources on SMHW. As a reminder, the papers for English GCSEs, consist of the following:

English Language Paper 1 – reading unseen fiction (4 questions on a 19<sup>th</sup> century extract), imaginative writing

English Language Paper 2 – reading unseen non-fiction (7 questions on 2 non-fiction extracts from the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries), transactional writing

English Literature Paper 1 – Macbeth (an extract based analysis question and a whole text question based on themes/characters and context), An Inspector Calls (a choice of 2 questions based on themes/characters and context)

English Literature Paper 2 – A Christmas Carol (extract based analysis question and a whole text question based on themes/characters), Conflict Poetry (theme and context based question comparing a given poem with another in the cluster), unseen poetry (comparing 2 unseen poems)

GCSE Media students have recently attended a Student Study Day at the British Film Institute in preparation for their summer examination. The day focused on TV news/news websites which form the basis of the examination. Following on from this study, there are lots of things that students can do including:

- Watching *Al Jazeera* (English) daily in order to keep abreast of what is happening globally
- Exploring specific regional news programmes such as *BBC Look North/Look East*
- Researching *HuffPost* and *Reddit*
- Practising designing their own website homepages in timed conditions

## Parents Guide to Getting Through Examinations

Support from parents can make a real difference to how a student copes with the examination process. Along with the tips on *managing stress* given in the February issue of this newsletter, here is some advice on getting both your child and you through the GCSE examinations.

- Parents can assist helping their son/daughter by listening while they revise a topic, discussing notes or timing them while they work on practice papers.
- Make home life as calm and pleasant as possible. This will help both child and parent to get through a potentially stressful time. Your child may be under some pressure, so make allowances for this – arguments can be counter-productive, adding unnecessary distraction from revision.
- Encourage breaks, exercise, healthy eating, plenty of sleep and some small treats.
- Watch for signs of stress. You will know your child and some will react positively to the pressures of examinations using this to drive them on to do their best. Others will be showing signs of not coping so well. Things to look out for are; loss of concentration and interest, tears and panic attacks, sleeping or eating more or less than usual and subtle calls for help such as hanging around and wanting to talk.

Encourage your child and give them all the emotional and practical support that you can throughout the examination period. It will soon be over!

If you have any concerns with regard to this issue, please don't hesitate to contact the school. In the first instance, please contact Mrs Sarah Evison, Head of Year 11.

