

YEAR 11 BULLETIN

CARING - DETERMINED - REFLECTIVE A FOCUS ON EXAMS

KEY DATE 22/09/22

Coming up this week is the exams information evening. This evening explains all that you need to know about your child's summer exams. From what they need to do now to start to be prepared, to how many exams they may have to what the next steps are after their GCSE's. It is an opportunity for you to clarify any questions you have regarding their GCSE needs to find out about post-16 options, our sixth form and the support we offer with careers advice and applications as well as outlining the timeline for your child's next steps this year.

METACOGNITION

We are currently working on developing our pupils' metacognition and would like to ask your help with this. Metacognition is, in essence, thinking about thinking. Research shows that if a pupil practices metacognitive skills this improves their overall success. The first step to this is to encourage them to become aware of how they are working, what skills they are using and the areas they need to improve on. Ask your child what they have learnt during the school day asking them to explain their understanding of the subject.

REVISION SKILLS and METACOGNITION

This week our revision skills focus has been looking at Cornell notes as a refresher. Cornell notes are a way of organising notes. These could be a reflection on what has happened in the lesson or on a video watched.

This reflection is a good start to being on the way to becoming a metacognitive learner.

Discuss with your child what they have written and question how they can improve on it.

GCSE MINDSET

This week students have explored what it means to have a growth mindset and what this might look like both in the classroom and in their day to day lives.

Students have completed a quiz in order to identify whether they currently have a growth or fixed mindset. This will then lead to some discussion about how they might evolve a growth mindset.

Next week students will be breaking down the journey they need to travel to reach their goal. Discuss with your child their goal and the obstacles which they might need to overcome in order to achieve it, what success along the way might look like and what you could do to support them during this journey.

WHY DO WE DO THIS?

A student with a fixed mindset will feel threatened by the success of others, will see effort as pointless and will give up easily. I think we can all agree that these characteristics are not desirable in a GCSE student. Having a growth mindset will mean that students will approach challenges and constructive feedback with positivity and will therefore be likely to make more progress.

Ask your son or daughter about their quiz. Do they have a fixed or growth mindset at the moment and how do they know? Could you discuss times when you have had to adopt a growth mindset to be successful in your work or in another endeavour?