



19th March 2025

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HEADTEACHER: Mrs R Skelton

Dear Parent/Carer

As we get to Easter I wanted to remind you that your child is now half way through their GCSE courses. This time next year they will be into their final revision period prior to the final GCSE exams. I therefore want to take this opportunity to highlight some things which you can do to support your young person in maximising their attitude to learning and therefore their attainment. Over the next 12 months we will be sharing regular updates with you on key events, how to help your young person revise and when there are key post 16 deadlines and open evenings.

It is essential that your son/daughter has their timetable with them at all times to support them in arriving at lessons on time and therefore ensuring that they are not missing any learning. The first ten minutes of any lesson are when previous work is recapped to enable students to move onto new learning. This recap is an essential revision strategy using retrieval techniques called Flashbacks. Teaching staff use question level analysis from previous assessments to identify key areas where students need to improve their recall and understanding.

Your son/daughter was provided with a planner at the start of the academic year. I have noticed that a number of students have either lost their planner or are regularly leaving it at home. The planner has been designed to act as a study diary so that they are able to record homework and it includes key information which will help them with specific subject areas. They are also able to track their attendance, effort and attainment including predicted grades on a regular basis which will support them with post 16 applications. It would be great if you could spend time checking their planner and supporting them in planning their homework and revision tasks. If they have not been set homework they have access to a range of online learning platforms including Seneca, Educake and Complete Maths. You can find further details of these in the planner. If your son/daughter has lost their planner, they can purchase a new one from reception.

Students are being set homework in most subject areas which will support them in preparing for all of their exams including the Year 10 mock exams which will take place in June. It is important that your son/daughter has a space in which to work at home where they will be able to study. We appreciate that family homes can also be busy places so students will be able to access a quiet study room in school during second break.

All students should have basic equipment with them each day. This allows them to get a quick settled start to the lesson rather than having to look around for a pen. The basic equipment which all students should have includes two pens, a pencil, a rubber and a ruler within a pencil case. There are a number of students who do not currently have basic equipment and this is directly impacting on their learning. If you are having difficulties in providing these please let Mrs Smoothery know and we will be able to help.

As your son/daughter looks ahead to applying for college in the autumn term they will need to consider their predicted grades when applying for courses. Two key grades which colleges look for are grade 4s in English and Maths. Whilst colleges will accept students with lower grades than this they will be expected to re sit the subjects whilst studying for their post 16 qualification. This applies to all students whether they are in college or work based training including apprenticeships. Colleges are only able to provide limited time for these courses of around 1 hour per week compared to the 3.5 - 5 hours that they currently receive. It is therefore important that your young person does their best to achieve these grade 4s. Your son/daughter may have been invited into school for period 5 intervention sessions to support them in improving their grades in maths and English and other subject areas. Please support them in attending these sessions as staff are specifically planning them to target areas for development which have been identified in assessments.

There are some key dates in the calendar for the remainder of this academic year which I would like to make you aware of:

- 17th March Music Exam
- 21st March Drama Exam
- 24th – 28th March Year 10 Science Paper 1 assessments
- 4th April Final deadline for Y10 units in Sport, Engineering and ICT
- 9th- 13th June Year 10 work experience
- 17th June – 4th July Year 10 mock exams all subjects including speaking Exams in French and Spanish

Please take particular note of the key exam dates and vocational deadlines. If your son/daughter is taking vocational courses in Sport, Engineering, and ICT they have a key deadline at Easter. This is a final deadline for these units and work has to be submitted to the exam board. If your son/daughter fails, this unit they will be unable to pass their GCSE

Work experience is due to take place at the beginning of June. This is an opportunity for your young person to experience the world of work and find out more about careers they may be interested in. It also provides a subject which they can discuss at college interviews when they apply for their post 16 places. Last year a number of students were offered apprenticeships for when they finish Year 11 as they made an outstanding impression during their experience week. If your son/daughter does not yet have a placement arranged, please contact Mrs Bass who will support them in finding one.

It is essential that your son/daughter attends school on time every day. There are key deadlines, particularly for vocational subjects, throughout the year which are set by the exam board. These deadlines cannot be extended. Where possible please therefore avoid making appointments during the school day.

If you need support regarding your child's attendance please contact the attendance team on attendance@gainsboroughacademy.com or Mrs Smoothery (lsmoothery@gainsboroughacademy.com). If your child's attendance becomes a concern you will be invited into a meeting to discuss this.

To enable your son/daughter to have the support needed to reach their full potential it is essential that school and home work together. I therefore ask that if you have any concerns or would like to discuss your child's experience at school please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,



Rachael Skelton
Headteacher