



Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

'Inspiration and Excellence'

Headteacher: Dominic Robson BA (Hons) NPQH

Lichfield Road, Sutton Coldfield, B74 2NH, 0121 250 5400, www.bvgs.co.uk

11th April 2019

RE: Easter Holidays and Exam Week preparations

Dear parent/guardian,

It has been an extremely busy and successful term for your son whereby he has really had to adhere to the increased demands of his studies to prepare him for his GCSE's. Your son would have learnt a lot about his own study skills, his rate of progress in each subject area, but most importantly identified start work on areas of improvement which would have been recommended on parents evening back in March.

Your son returns to school on **Monday 29th April** and at this point he will have only four weeks until he breaks up for the half term at the end of the May. This is significant for your son as this is the point whereby your son will be deep into his preparations for internal exam week commencing **Monday 3rd June 2019**.

Internal exam week for your son this year will be slightly different to previous years. Your son will notice an increase in the demands of the week as firstly your son will get to attempt GCSE style questions across his subjects when examined, secondly will notice that the duration of his exams will be longer when compared to previous years, and thirdly that the number of exams extends his examination period into a second week (**Monday 10th June**).

To support your son as much as possible for this examination period I do strongly urge that over the course of the Easter period a revision/study plan is put together that your son can adhere to. On constructing this plan I would recommend considering the following points:

- **Periods of a minimum of 45 minutes per piece of work**
- **Short breaks factored in between different pieces of work**
- **Small chunks of the curriculum worked on at a time with exam question practice being factored in**
- **Social time/events planned into the schedule**
- **Colour coding of each subject and potential skill set. For example: Selected colour for exam questions, a different colour for creating notes**
- **Minimum of 2 -3 hours a day to be focused on revision**

To aid your son in the successful construction of his study plan a proforma will be sent via email to you as parents, please feel free to modify it to suit your son's preference.

I must stress that due to the Easter holiday falling so late this year, this break is a pivotal time for your son to make significant advancements in his preparations for the examination period. As I shared with you on Welcome evening in September, this is the last opportunity before your son's **Year 11 mock examinations in November 2019**, to identify areas of strength and weakness to allow him ample opportunity to rectify areas of concern.

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The Governors of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School are a registered charity (No: 517907)





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Your son has completed a number of assessments over the course of the year, and accompanied with his grades has been provided with substantial feedback on where improvements can be made. It is your son's responsibility to act upon this feedback and implement the strategies that have so far been suggested to him.

Any examination period can be extremely stressful, and as Mrs Hodkinson explained on Welcome evening, there are a number of common signs linked with stress. If your son does start to become overwhelmed with the demands, then please do encourage him to talk about his concerns and communicate with us as a pastoral team. We can then put a plan in place to support your son.

Your son will receive a copy of his examination period after the Easter break and this will also be sent home via email to you. I will be reminding your son during the build up to this period about examination etiquette, and will allow him ample opportunity to clear up any questions he may have regarding the process.

Over the course of the last two years your son has had an afternoon registration period designated to work on revision folders, which has always been a **Friday**. After Easter as well as the **Friday**, I will be expecting your son to be working on his folders on **Tuesday's** and **Wednesday's**. Over the course of the week this will give your son an additional **60 minutes of revision time** whereby he can focus on folders of his choosing. This will be **compulsory** for all students in the lead up to exam week.

If you do have any concerns or questions relating to any of the information in this letter, then please do contact me and I will assist as much I can. I do wish you and your son a lovely Easter break and I look forward to seeing him in school on his return **Monday 29th April**.

Kind regards,

Naima Field

(0121 250 5400 or n.field@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk)

Head of Year 10

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