FAMILIES BULLETIN
13th March

Year 11 Easter Holiday Revision – How Parents & Carers Can Help

With GCSE exams only **four school weeks away**, the two-week Easter holiday is a crucial opportunity for students to consolidate learning, fill gaps, and build confidence. A healthy balance of **revision, rest, and routine** can make a powerful difference to outcomes.

Here's how you can support your son or daughter during this important period.

1. Why Easter Holiday Revision Matters

The Easter break is the final sustained block of independent study before GCSE exams begin. Using this time well helps students to:

- strengthen their understanding of challenging topics
- practise exam questions without daily school pressures
- reduce anxiety by feeling better prepared
- enter the exam period feeling confident

Even **2–3 hours of focused revision a day**, broken into short chunks, can lead to significant progress.

2. Encourage Attendance at Easter Revision Sessions

We are running targeted revision sessions throughout the holiday, focusing on key skills, common misconceptions, and high-value exam content.

You can support your child by:

- checking which subject sessions are available
- helping plan wake-up times, meals, or transport
- praising them for attending and showing commitment
- asking afterwards, "What did you cover today?"

These sessions provide high-impact, guided support that boosts confidence and exam readiness.



3. Help Create a Simple, Manageable Daily Routine

A routine removes stress and builds momentum. Here is an example structure many families find helpful:

- Late morning: 45–60 minutes revision
- Break: snack, fresh air, stretch
- Midday: another 45–60 minutes revision
- Afternoon: free time, relaxation, social time
- Early evening: 30–45 minutes light revision (flashcards, a short quiz, or a mind map)

Tips for parents:

- encourage them to plan the next day each evening
- keep phones away during revision
- help prioritise the subjects they find hardest
-

Remember: consistency matters more than long hours.

4. Use the Core Four – Practical Ways Parents Can Support

To help your child revise effectively this Easter, encourage the Core Four—simple, high-impact methods that make revision stick. Here's how you can support them at home:

1. Flashcards

Great for key terms and quick recall.
How you can help: Test them for 2–3 minutes or ask them to explain a card to you.

2. Mind Maps

Useful for big topics and making links.
How you can help: Provide paper/colours and ask, "Talk me through this topic."

3. Brain Dumps

Write everything they remember about a topic from memory.
How you can help: Set a 5-minute timer and then ask, "What did you miss?"

4. Self-Quizzing

Answering questions from memory builds exam confidence.
How you can help: Read out questions (you don't need to know the answers).

A simple line that always helps:

"Show me what you've learned today."
This encourages explanation, deepens understanding, and shows support without pressure.

5. Balance Productivity and Well-Being

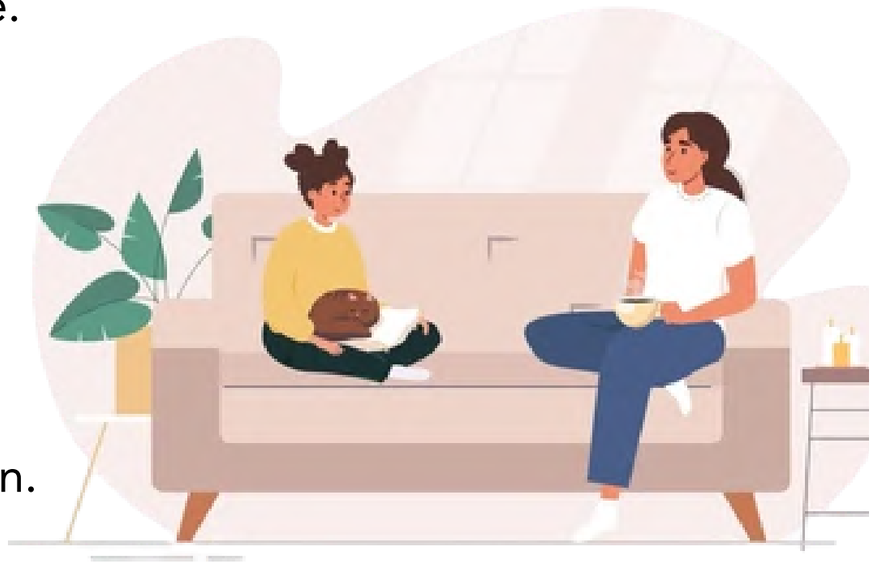


Effective revision requires rest. Encourage your child to:

- keep to regular bedtimes
- drink plenty of water and eat well
- build in exercise or short walks
- take breaks between sessions
- enjoy social or relaxation time

Healthy routines improve memory, focus, and emotional resilience.

6. Keep Communication Positive



Supportive, low-pressure questions make a big difference:

- “What’s your plan for today?”
- “Which subject are you working on next?”
- “How can I help you this week?”

Praise effort, persistence, and improvement, rather than perfection.

7. After Easter: Attendance Really Counts

Once students return to school, every lesson and every intervention session becomes crucial. National data shows that students with attendance above 95% are more than twice as likely to achieve strong GCSE passes compared with those whose attendance falls below 90%.

In the final weeks, teachers focus on:

- targeted exam preparation
- practising high-value content
- correcting misconceptions
- refining exam technique

Your support in maintaining strong attendance—and punctuality—ensures your child gains every advantage in this final phase.

Your encouragement, structure, and positivity—before, during, and after Easter—play an essential role in your child’s success. Together, we can help Year 11 feel confident, prepared, and ready for their GCSE exams.

Mr Williams
Deputy Headteacher - Curriculum

Early Dismissal – Friday 27 March 2026

Please be advised that on the final day of term, Friday 27 March 2026, the school will operate an early dismissal schedule, with students departing the site from 1:00pm.

Further information regarding specific dismissal times for individual year groups will be shared with you next week to help you plan accordingly.



Update on External Construction Works

We have been informed by **Kier**, the contractor responsible for the ongoing construction works outside the school, that the completion of the works directly outside the school has been **extended to 28 March**.

All existing arrangements that have been in place since the works began **will remain unchanged** until the project is fully completed. We appreciate your continued patience and cooperation while these essential improvements are finalised.



Dates for your diary

Date	Event	Year Group	Timings
Friday 27th March	Last Day of Term (Early Dismissal)	All	1:00pm onwards
Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April	Easter Holiday	All	All Day
Monday 30th March - Thursday 2nd April & Wednesday 8th April	Year 11 Intervention Sessions (Full offer on our Easter Menu)	Year 11	10:30am - 1:30pm
Friday 3rd April	Good Friday (School Closed)	All	All Day
Monday 6th April	Easter Monday (School Closed)	All	All Day
Monday 13th April	INSET Day (School Closed)	All	All Day
Tuesday 14th April	All students return to school	All	8:30am
Monday 20th April	GCSE Examinations Begin	Year 11	Various
Wednesday 13th May	Twilight (Early Dismissal)	All	12:50pm onwards

Year 11 Updates: Easter Revision Sessions, Tutor Time, Prom, and Masterclasses

It is an exciting and important time for Year 11. Students have demonstrated remarkable resilience and determination throughout the March mock examinations, and we are now entering the final phase of preparation before the GCSEs begin in early June. To further support students during this crucial period, we are pleased to offer the following opportunities:

Easter Holiday Revision Sessions

Following the success of our previous holiday revision programme, we are delighted to be running further sessions over the Easter break. Students can sign up immediately clicking the QR code at the end of this article. These sessions provide targeted academic support and structured revision in key subjects.

Enhanced Tutor Time and Subject Intervention

Tutor time will continue to focus on developing effective revision strategies, alongside ongoing intervention in core subjects. It is essential that all students arrive punctually so they can benefit fully from these sessions.

Motivational Speaker Assemblies

We are pleased to host a series of special assemblies featuring inspirational external speakers, including:

- CeCe Lightfoot, British vocal and performance coach, singer–songwriter and television presenter;
- Shirin Sheikh-Bahai, Trust Director of Science at Canary Wharf College;
- Emmanuel Lawal, medical student at Imperial College London.

These speakers will share their expertise, experiences and guidance to inspire and motivate students as they approach their exams.

After-School Masterclasses

Masterclasses will continue to run after school on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. These sessions are designed to support students who are not yet meeting their target grades, helping them to make accelerated progress. Students who attend all of their masterclasses will be entered into a prize draw, with the chance to win a voucher for a local nail or barber shop—perfect for helping them prepare for prom.

Prom – Thursday 18 June 2026

A reminder that the Year 11 Prom will take place on Thursday 18 June, from 5:30pm to 8:30pm. Tickets are priced at £34.85, but students can earn reduced-price tickets through good attendance:

- 95% or higher: 50% discount
- 90–94%: 30% discount

If your child requires support in finding a suitable prom outfit, we have a selection of formal clothing available in the KS4 office for students to browse and choose from.

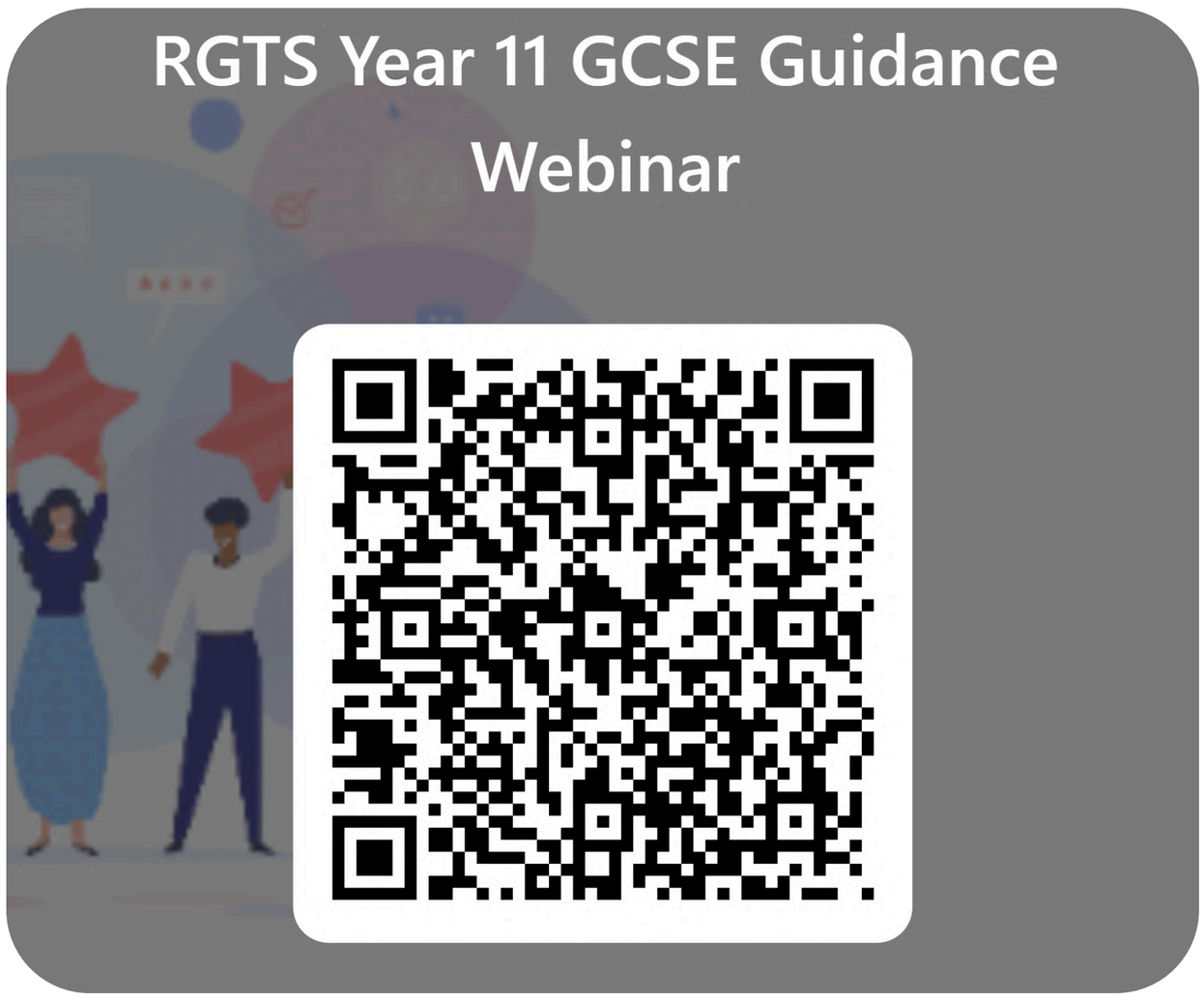
Mr Dalby
Head of Year 11

Year 11 News: GCSE Guidance Webinar

We will be publishing a webinar on **Thursday 26th March** to provide you with key guidance on how you can support your child over the next six weeks as they prepare for the upcoming Year 11 examinations.

To make this event as purposeful and helpful as possible, please could you complete the questionnaire beforehand with any questions or queries you may have regarding the exams. Your feedback will support our planning and ensure we can provide you with the most useful information.

To complete the questionnaire, simply click on the image below, it should take no longer than 3-minutes to complete.



Mr Drumm
Assistant Headteacher - KS4

Year 11 Reminder: Art – Externally Set Assignment (ESA) Examination Reminder

We would like to remind families that our Year 11 Art students will complete their 10-hour Externally Set Assignment examination on Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th March. We are incredibly proud of the effort and commitment students have shown throughout their coursework and preparation so far.



Students should arrive at the Art Studio by 8:30am to set up their workspace, with the exam beginning promptly at 9:00am each morning. Normal break and lunchtime arrangements will apply.

Over the coming days, students will be finalising their preparatory studies ahead of the exam. We wish them every success as they complete their final ESA pieces – they continue to demonstrate real grit and determination in striving to achieve their very best.

Mrs Houston
Assistant Headteacher

Community Spotlight: Rising to the Challenge: RGTS Year 9 Make a Remarkable Competitive Debut

This week marked a milestone for our Year 9 basketball squad as they stepped onto the court for their first official competitive outing, a moment that, for most of the players, was also their first experience competing against external teams. Despite their limited game exposure, the team exceeded expectations, demonstrating determination, collaboration, and sportsmanship as they secured an impressive second-place finish.

Their opening match set a confident tone. Displaying surprising cohesion for a newly assembled group, we overcame Leigh Academy Blackheath U14s with resilience and enthusiasm. Their second fixture, against the formidable St Matthew's Academy, was a tightly contested battle. Though we were ultimately defeated, their performance showed exceptional promise and earned them a proud position as runners-up.

Beyond their competitive results, the team's unity and mindset were standout qualities. At no point did they allow setbacks to undermine their efforts. Instead, they responded to challenges with focus and collective grit an impressive trait for a new team adjusting to the pressures of competition.

Their behaviour throughout the tournament was equally noteworthy. Coaches and staff consistently praised the students for their maturity, respect, and coachability. David A., elected team captain, embraced his leadership role with admirable seriousness, providing guidance during half-time discussions and helping the team maintain tactical clarity. Even Jonas, known for keeping a serious game face, couldn't resist sharing a smile a clear sign of the positive energy within the squad.

Support from older students further strengthened the team's competitive edge. Adam and Sadiq (Year 11), who were training on-site, stepped in to support the younger team when it became clear that older players were participating on opposing squads. Their presence provided invaluable reinforcement, though the heart of the team's success remained the fierce determination of the Year 9 players themselves.

At the end of the day, the players were reminded of the significance of what they had achieved: performing at such a high level despite having never played together before is an accomplishment worthy of pride. Their teamwork, discipline, and resilience laid a strong foundation for future success and signalled the emergence of a team with tremendous potential.

We can confidently celebrate a promising beginning to what is shaping up to be an exciting journey in school sport.





Community News: #WakeUpWednesday

Please take a moment to review this week's guidance from The National College, which outlines important information on current online trends that may encourage violent behaviours. The resource provides clear advice to help you support young people in navigating social media safely and responsibly.

To view the full guidance, click the image below.

