

Year 11 Parent Bulletin

Thursday 2nd April- Easter Addition



Dear all,

Over the last two weeks Year 11 have had some important messages regarding the Easter break and what they need to do to ensure success for the GCSE exams.

Students have been told that there are only 16 school days until the first full cohort exam and we want them to be ready.

The key to success is spaced retrieval. This is a marathon not a sprint. We want Year 11 students to be doing little and often. But most importantly revisiting knowledge again and again. We know that to space your learning out over time and to regularly review ensures that our memory gets stronger with each spaced review.



Miss Dingwall
Head of Year 11

Students have been reminded that all of this information is embedded in their Study Buddy and these are excellent tools to use to support with revision and developing our long term memory.

We are looking forward to welcoming Year 11 into school on the second week of the Easter break. The timetable for this is below. Students should bring their learning folders and pencil cases and some lunch (we will provide snacks). Students can come in in non school uniform.

Spaced Practice

- Spread your learning out
- Three is better than one



Your memory gets stronger with each spaced review.

Monday 13 th April	Wednesday 15 th April	Thursday 16 th April	Friday 17 th April	Friday 17 th April
History 10am-1pm	English 10am- 1pm	Maths 10am-1pm	Art 10am- 3pm	Spanish F: 10am-12pm H: 12pm- 2:30pm

Message from BTEC Sport

Students will sit their BTEC Sport exam on **Thursday 7th May**.

To support their preparation, students will be given a past paper to complete over the Easter break. They also have access to EverLearner, which provides structured revision tasks and videos to reinforce key content- look out for the Hot Topics on this platform!

In addition, students can continue using their CGP revision booklets, which include targeted exam questions to help them practise and apply their knowledge effectively.

Thank you for continuing to support Year 11 through their exam preparation. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Message from BTEC Health and Social Care

We would like to remind students and parents that the upcoming Year 11 BTEC Health and Social Care exam is on **Tuesday 5th May**.

To support students in preparing effectively, a past exam paper will be sent home for all students to complete over the two-week Easter break. This will give them valuable practice under exam-style conditions and help identify any areas that need further revision. In addition, students have access to eRevision, which they can use in Revision Mode to revisit key topics and strengthen their understanding.

Students also have their CGP question booklet which contain a range of exam-style questions organised by topic. These are an excellent resource for self-testing and targeted revision.

Message from Mr Howlett- Head of Maths

Maths Revision – Clear and Effective Strategies

As we approach the final weeks before the GCSE exams, we want to ensure that all students feel confident about how to revise effectively for maths. There are a range of high-quality resources available to support them:

Past papers (the most effective strategy):

- Completing full past papers is the best preparation for the real exams, helping students build confidence, accuracy and exam technique.
- Maths Genie: <https://www.mathsgenie.co.uk/papers.php> (students should select the correct tier)
- OnMaths: <https://www.onmaths.com/> (for online papers)
- We are happy to print past papers for students on request
- Students should continue completing their weekly half papers for homework

Sparx Maths:

- Homework: set regularly by teachers
- Revision Tool: provides targeted exam-style practice
- Fix-Up Tasks: personalised work to address gaps identified from recent mock exams (PPEs)

Ultimate Revision Booklet:

- Available on ClassCharts and also online here:
- <https://www.1stclassmaths.com/edexcelrevision>
- This provides a structured set of topics and practice questions.

Easter Revision Sessions:

- These sessions are led by experienced teachers and provide focused, high-quality support. Attendance is strongly encouraged.

Message from Miss Talbot- Head of English

Hello Year 11!

As this term ends, I wanted to share some important reminders about how to revise for your English GCSE exams:

Timed Exam Practice

The most important form of revision at this point!

- Complete full papers or individual questions under timed conditions will build writing stamina and confidence, as well as helping to immediately identify any gaps in knowledge.
- Seek teacher feedback or self-assess using the success criteria booklet.

Practice exam papers and success criteria booklets are outside the English workroom, upstairs in Smith Block.

Knowledge Organiser Revision

To address gaps in knowledge, spend more time revising the parts of the courses that you are least confident with.

- Make revision resources (flashcards, mind-maps etc.) for key vocabulary, quotations, context...
- Use the resources to recap and revise effectively.

Understanding the Exams

To build confidence with the requirements of each question on the exam.

- Make revision resources to revise the focus, criteria, marks and timings for each question on all four papers).
- Use the resources you have made to revise.

Keep an eye out for a range of helpful revision resources being shared by the English department between now and the exams, starting this week with Miss Owen's 'A Quotation a Day Keeps the Exam Stress Away...' on our Facebook page!

Please let your teacher know if you need any help or feedback - you can do this!

Message from Miss Roberts

Over the past couple of weeks, I have been popping into PSHE lessons to support students in putting together their revision timetable for the Easter holidays.

We have followed the guidance on page 13 of their Study Buddy, and filled in Page 23 & 24.

We would love for you to ask your child to show you theirs, and very grateful for your support in helping the students stick to the timetables which they have set out for themselves.

How to create and use a revision timetable
A simple guide for Year 11 students.

Why use a revision timetable?
A revision timetable helps you:
Stay organised
Avoid last minute cramming
Balance school, revision, and free time
Cover every subject properly
It turns "I should revise" into a clear plan.

STEP 1: List your subjects and topics
Write down:
All your GCSE subjects
The main topics for each subject
Example:
Biology: Cell biology, infection & response, bioenergetics
English: Poetry, Macbeth, unseen texts
This helps you see what you actually need to revise.

STEP 2: Be realistic about your time
Look at your week and mark:
School hours
Homework
Clubs/Work
Relaxing time
Family time
Now see where revision can fit.
Even 30-60 minutes a day is enough if you use it well.

STEP 3: Create your timetable
Use:
A planner
A printed sheet
A notes app
A whiteboard
For each day, add:
Subject
Topic
Time

STEP 4: Mix your subjects
Don't revise the same subject all day. Mixing subjects:
Keeps you focused
Helps your memory
Stops boredom!
Try to include:
A written subject
A science or maths subject
A lighter task (like flashcards)

STEP 5: Use active revision
Avoid just reading notes. Instead, try:
Flashcards
Past exam questions
Blurt (write what you remember)
Mindmaps
Teaching someone else
These methods help you remember, not just read.

STEP 6: Add breaks
Your brain needs rest. Use:
25-30 minutes revision
5-minute break
After 2 sessions, take a longer break
No breaks = less focus

STEP 7: Stick to it (but be flexible)
You won't follow it perfectly every day - that's normal.
If you miss a session:
Don't panic
Just move it to another day
The timetable is there to help, not stress you out

STEP 8: Review it weekly
Every week, ask:
What's working?
What isn't?
Do I need more time for any subjects?
Adjust your timetable to suit you.



Prom- Friday 19th June 2026

If you would like your child to attend our prom celebration, tickets can be purchased on Parent Pay for £60. Prom is being held at the Alverton Hotel, Truro.

This cost includes a three course meal, DJ and photo both. It is a fantastic annual celebration and we would like to celebrate with as many year 11 students as possible. Deadline for purchase is the 31st May.



Leavers Assembly- Photo Request

As we approach the final few weeks before we start the GCSE exams. I would like to draw your attention to our annual leavers assembly that we will hold on Monday 15th June, which of course includes the traditional shirt signing. We like to begin the assembly by sharing photos of students on their first day of school and for this- I need your support!

If you are happy to, please do share a photo of your child on their first day of school, either primary or secondary that will be shared with Year 11 students during the assembly. This is a traditional part of our assembly and the students really enjoy this. Please send all photos to cdingwall@poltair.celtrust.org

Dates for the diary



Monday 20th and Friday 24th April- Performing Arts Exam

Tuesday 21st and Thursday 23rd April- Music Exam

Monday 27th, Wednesday 29th, and Thursday 30th April- GCSE Art Exams

Tuesday 28th April- Friday 1st May- GCSE Spanish Speaking Exams

Tuesday 5th May- BTEC Health and Social Care Exam

Thursday 7th May- BTEC Sport Exam