



## Sacred Heart Catholic High School

### Year 11

#### GCSE Programme of support

As the Spring Term gets fully underway, and your daughter understandably begins to think about the forthcoming summer exams and the excitement of Post-16 options, we would like to share with you the support on offer to her this year.

Although Sacred Heart students have a fantastic record in GCSE results, each year we remind the girls in Year 11 that this comes from sustained work and a desire to achieve. As your daughter's teachers, we pledge to do all we can to support her. In turn, we ask her to commit to work with us to maximise her chances.

Below is an outline of the support we offer all Year 11 students.

#### **Study Club**

Each night of the week (3.30pm to 5pm) at least 3 GCSE subject specialist teachers are on hand in the library's Study Club to offer help with coursework, classwork or revision. For those students who feel stuck on a particular aspect of a subject, this is a great place to come and ask for a one-to-one explanation. Students who attend often say how a few sessions really help them become 'unstuck' in a subject. Year 11 students have priority at Study Club.

#### **'Effective revision' sessions**

The school's expert Teaching & Learning Team run a series of revision focused sessions to ensure all students have the tools to revise effectively whatever the subject. These sessions are tried and tested, with 6<sup>th</sup> Form students also coming along to share their tips and GCSE experience.

#### **Department revision sessions**

After the diagnostic exams, departments will begin to schedule after school revision sessions. Details of these will be shared by your daughter's class teachers and run typically one night or lunchtime per week.

#### **Our 'Diagnostic Assessment' week (Start 7<sup>th</sup> March)**

We believe that one of the reasons Sacred Heart is so successful at helping students maximise achievement is through the way we do our 'Mocks'. Our examination week is geared to helping your daughter's teachers best target their efforts in the remaining teaching weeks of the year. Through this exams' exercise, your daughter will be able to see the areas she needs to maximise her effort, removing the 'revise everything from the start' approach and ensuring our students target their revision. It would be appropriate for your daughter to start revising now and not leave it until the Easter holidays.

### Maths Coach

In addition to your daughter's maths teacher and our Study Club maths teachers, we also have a dedicated and hugely experienced Maths Coach. Students wishing to work with the Maths Coach, Miss Smith, will need to book in with her. Places are available at break, lunch and after school.

### Online support

- i) Each Department has produced a series of online videos specifically targeted at explaining the most important (and often most difficult) concepts in their GCSE syllabus. All students have access to these video resources via 'Clickview'. Students are aware how to access this platform.
- ii) Your daughter also has access to two major online GCSE revision tools (SENECA Learning and Brainscape).
- iii) SENECA Learning is an online learning platform that allows students to study exam board specific content for KS4. Since its inception, our pupils have spent tens of thousands of hours revising subject content. School has recently purchased the premium version which will remain free to access for all students. New login details will follow by personal email in the next few days.
- iv) Brainscape uses the evidence-based knowledge retention strategy 'spaced repetition' to embed core knowledge in long-term memory. Sacred Heart has developed a unique partnership with Brainscape over recent years which has resulted in our staff producing thousands of digital flashcards which are available to our students on the website. They can be stored and accessed outside of school via PC or mobile devices for enhanced flexibility.  
To login:  
User: School email address  
Password: SHHS2017 (case sensitive)
- v) MathsWatch is a revision and catch-up tool, which allows students to cover every topic that their teachers do at school. The product consists of videos, printable worksheets and online assessments that cover thousands of exam questions which are marked automatically.  
Students all have their own login to MathsWatch
- vi) Other useful Maths websites are:  
Corbett maths ([www.corbettmaths.com](http://www.corbettmaths.com)) and Mathsgenie ([www.mathsgenie.co.uk](http://www.mathsgenie.co.uk)) - neither require a login.

### **GCSE Exam Board update - Essential information regarding examinations**

Very soon, the GCSE exam boards will publish how they are adapting the examinations this year to take account of the disruption caused by COVID over the past two years.

Exam boards will:

- Remove some of the content usually tested in each GCSE and inform schools and pupils of this in February
- Inform students the parts of their syllabus which will be used for the more demanding questions
- Adjust the Summer 2022 grade boundaries to ensure that the percentage of students passing at each grade is at the mid-point between the boundaries of 2019 and 2021

#### **IMPORTANT**

Whilst we believe it is highly unlikely, should the summer formal examinations be cancelled because of COVID, it may be that the diagnostic assessments and other in-school assessments would contribute towards a Teacher Assessed Grade (TAG). It is therefore essential the exams in March are taken seriously. Consequently, these 'mock' exams will be held in the Sports' Hall and invigilated (as would be the case in the summer exams) and full Access Arrangements implemented for those students who qualify for them. All assessment material will be retained by school as potential evidence.

The final date for your diary is 29<sup>th</sup> June. This is known as 'contingency day'. No matter when your daughter's examinations finish, she needs to be available until this date in case any papers need to be rescheduled due to unforeseen circumstances. The Examination Boards/Awarding Organisations are quite clear about this and will not consider appeals due to holidays or prior engagements.