Summer Term - Updates for Year 13 Parents

Dear Year 13 Parents and Carers,

We are writing you to give you some of the key information concerning the Yr13 curriculum, exams and the end of the school year. As this term begins it has been wonderful to see the hard work and focus from the Class of 2023 as they prepare to begin their A Level and BTEC exams. There is lots of work to do in the coming term to ensure students can achieve the best grades possible, we look forward to working with pupils and families as prepare for exam success.

1. What does good revision look like?

Pupils are expected to be doing 2/3 hours every evening after school, as well as at least 6 hours a day during weekends as a minimum. Their revision needs to be broken up into manageable chunks with breaks in between times. For example, 1 hour revising and then taking a 10-minute break away from their revision space. Remember phones are the biggest distraction to revision and thus academic outcomes and so taking your child's phone away when revising would be advisable to best support them.

At this stage students should be learning the content from their revision notes, using active recall techniques (such as creating and practicing short answer knowledge questions) as well as practising past exam questions in timed conditions. This could be sitting whole papers downloaded from specification websites, or individual questions in timed conditions.

2. Weekend and May half term intervention sessions

There will be additional intervention sessions running in certain subjects over the next term. All students are required to attend their subject sessions. Students will be reminded of a session they are required to attend one week before the session and parents will also be emailed a reminder one week before. Attendance to intervention sessions is compulsory.

3. Exam dates & lesson expectations

A Level & BTEC exams begin this half term. Below are the dates of all of the Y13 exams.

As in other years students must be in school on time everyday. Teachers are able to prepare students the best for their exams. Students must be attending their lessons or study in IST, in a supervised environment. Students will be in school at the usual time throughout their exams. It is essential that students get into the good habits of attending on time every day to ensure that they are ready to be successful for the exam period.

A reminder that the exam contingency day set by the exam boards is 28th June. Exam boards advise all pupils to ensure they are available to sit exams on this in day in the event on any disruption to exams, please do not plan to take your child away from London until after this day.
4. **What do I do if my child is struggling?**

This is of course a stressful time for all Yr13 students and as such it is more important than ever that students are looking after themselves with the support from school and home. It is important that any concerns are communicated so that we can put in place the necessary help. We offer Place2Be, our counselling service, which students can access when they feel they need to. 'Kooth' is also an excellent online support network that students can use to seek support (simply google search). If you need more support on how to help your child at home, please reach out to us at school and we are more than happy to help.

Remember that some of the key elements of looking after our physical and mental health and controlling stress are:

- Ensuring that we have healthy sleep routines. Aiming for around 8hrs per night and not changing bedtime or wake up time during non-school days
- Eating and drinking healthily. Avoiding the intake of large amounts of caffeine or sugar which can harm energy levels and natural concentration
- Breaking up times of work with breaks that include socialising with friends and family and doing regular exercise
- Having a clear revision plan and sticking to it
- Avoiding long periods of time on screens and social media and ensuring devices are not taken to bed
5. August results day and sixth form enrolment

A level & BTEC results day is on Thursday 17th August. Results will be available to be collected between 8.30 and 10am. More details on this process will follow. **It is expected that all students will be available to collect their results in person on this day.** Students can also be checking UCAS track to check their university status.

Being in school to collect A level & BTEC results allows students to be supported with university decisions and have important guidance conversations with teachers. If you know that your child will not be able to attend results day you should contact g.bristow@kingssolomonacademy.org and k.mungur@kingssolomonacademy.org to ensure we have a plan to support you on results day.

6. End of exam period arrangements & planned celebrations

Students will be in school every day 8.20am-3pm until they finish all of their subject exams. There will be a Yr13 celebration assembly and refreshments on Friday 12th May, before exams start on the 15th May. Students will be dismissed from school at 1pm on Friday 12th May after their celebration assembly and lunch.

Prom is an important end to the students KSA Sixth Form journey. Prom will take place on Friday 30th June from 6.45pm- 10.30pm. This is an opportunity for the students to celebrate as a cohort their efforts and reaching this milestone before starting their future ambitions. **We would love to see everyone from Co2023 in attendance.**

We are looking forward this year to welcoming parents between 6.45- 7.30 to a reception where there will be some speeches of thanks to the parents, and the opportunity to take pictures with the students in their prom outfits.

The cost of the prom is £25 and can be paid in cash to Ms Bristow. This cost covers decorations, a sit-down meal and all refreshments.

We very much hope to see you there. **Please complete this Microsoft Form to indicate if you can attend the parent reception.** [https://forms.office.com/e/eagam5RMVv](https://forms.office.com/e/eagam5RMVv)

If you would like to discuss any of this further, please don’t hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

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