



15th February 2022

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Dear Parents/Guardians

Year 13 Revision, Exams and End of Year Celebrations

As we rapidly approach the summer examinations, we are writing to inform you of important details relating to revision, exams, end of year celebrations and the most effective ways of supporting your child in his/her preparations.

On Friday 11th February we spoke to all Year 13 students regarding the following:

- Advance Information (Revision lists)
- The need to **revise all content and skills** as any of them could still be assessed
- TAG2 assessments/Mock Exams
- A Level Exams (May/June series)
- End of year arrangements
- Our 3-Phase revision plan

Revision and the Advance Information

As parents it is also important that you understand what the Advance Information means for your child in terms of their exam preparations.

Unfortunately, the Advance Information is **not** a clear concise list of revision topics, it is not a true revision list. There is a lot of variety between subjects and between exam boards. In addition, **ALL of them make reference to the fact that content can and will be assessed that is not specifically listed.** The topics listed will be assessed in longer questions. Other content will still be assessed in short answer questions, multiple choice questions, and synoptic questions. Synoptic questions are those which assess knowledge and understanding from several parts of a course and require a student to make new connections.

This is not an interpretation of the Advance Information. The Joint Council for Qualification (JCQ) also state that any content can still be assessed. Please see Q10 and Q11 in their advice for students, which can be accessed using this link:

https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Students_FAQs_Summer_2022.pdf

Arden, and all other schools, have not had any control over this process. If you are dissatisfied please can you direct any complaints or concerns directly to Ofqual using:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofqual/about/complaints-procedure>



What does this mean?

All students should:

- revise topics in addition to those in the Advance Information - their revision should still include all aspects of the course unless the Advance Information explicitly states otherwise.
- continue to use full past papers to revise
- use the advance information to help guide and prioritise revision

Although the Advance Information is not a clear revision list. There are still many ways that teachers and students can use this information to support revision and work towards the best possible outcomes. Additionally, we have continued to deliver high quality teaching throughout the pandemic, so students at Arden are well prepared for the summer examinations.

This is a list of the ways in which we are providing support:

- We have collated all the Advance Information in one place, which we will share with students via Edulink. You can also access the information via this link:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Qeu_StKrV-cDO6hziPvuwjhl92mW-hVHI8DfMQ_e7uY/edit?usp=sharing
- We are implementing a 3-phase revision programme
 - Phase 1: Planned revision centred home learning and in class 'recall' activities
 - Phase 2: Structured revision lessons, with a schedule that will be shared with students via Edulink. Revision lessons will follow the process of recall, assessment of recall, fixing gaps in understanding and then application. Teachers will use a wide range of techniques to achieve this.
 - Phase 3: Exam technique
- Continuation of the revision strategy/technique assemblies
- Elevate - Successful Study Skills sessions
- During our tutor periods and through our mentoring programme, revision strategies are modelled and individual revision maps checked; students are encouraged to try each one and evaluate its success.
- Arden has purchased the Seneca Premium package for all KS5 students. It uses adaptive learning and improves recall, as well as providing exam papers and HyperLearning.
- There are other subject specific on-line packages. Your child will know about these via their subject teachers.

We are aware that this can be a very stressful time so students have also been given advice and support to help them cope with the forthcoming demands. We know that you will be giving your child every support with their revision but if you have any concerns about your son/daughter please do not hesitate to contact Mr Pillinger, Miss Page or myself or indeed any member of teaching or pastoral staff for specific advice.

TAG2 Assessments/Mock Exams

The Year 13 mocks were already planned as counting as TAG2 assessments. Regardless of any future use of the data, the mock exams themselves are a fundamental and well established part of exam and revision practice.

Although summer examinations have been confirmed, no guidance has yet been provided to schools regarding collecting evidence for any potential TAG process. Therefore, we will continue to treat the mock exams as the second TAG and manage them accordingly.



Exam Study Leave

In order to ensure, as far as possible, that each student has the opportunity to prepare thoroughly for their exams and to maximize their time with teaching staff, the Year 13 students' last day will be Friday 20th May.

The final weeks leading up to this are Phase 3 of our revision programme. Attendance at these lessons is an essential element of the ongoing revision process and will allow as much input and guidance from our staff as is possible in order to ensure that students reach the examination fully prepared. I am sure that you will recognise the benefit of this and support this process.

From Monday 23rd of May, students will be on study leave and will only need to come into school for examinations (8.40am for morning exams and 1.10pm for afternoon exams). The Sixth Form dress code still applies and prompt arrival is essential.

Leavers' Celebrations

Just to remind you, the Year 13 Leavers' Ball will take place on Thursday 30th June at the Manor Hotel in Meriden.

During this event, we invite parents/guardians to attend a drinks reception at 7.00pm, where staff, students and parents can reflect on their time at Arden Sixth Form. Students will then continue their evening with a formal three course meal, followed by a disco. The event will finish at midnight but further details will be communicated nearer the time.

In addition to the ball, we will also have a final day assembly on Friday 20th May with students attending lessons in the morning before celebrating their time in the Sixth Form in the afternoon with food and refreshments provided.

The cost of these leaving celebrations is £52.00, which is payable via ParentPay by Friday 20th May 2022. (There is the option to pay this by instalments.)

Finally, we would like to pass on our thanks to you as parents for your support over the last two (in many cases 7!) years. Partnership is crucial and we want to thank you for all the support, energy and time you have given the school and how important it is that this continues as we approach the final stretch.

Yours sincerely



Mr D White
Head of Sixth Form/Assistant Head Teacher

