



Year 11 Spring Term Newsletter

Trial Exams, Real Exams and Booster sessions



Trial Exams are imperative to giving our students real life experience of what they will encounter in their real GCSE examinations in May 2024. Preparation is key to success and understanding strict examination protocol set out by JCQ. Trials also give students the opportunity to fully understand the importance of timing, technique, skills and knowledge; ensuring students are at their most prepared when the real national exams begin. With each set of Trial Examinations, our cohort of Y11 students have been a shining example of excellent conduct and maturity. As a year team, we have been very proud of them.

The national examination programme begins on Thursday 9th May 2024 (although your child may have already sat individual NEA assessments in subjects such as Art, MFL and Business). Your child will bring home their preliminary/skeleton Exam Timetable on the last day of this term. This will provide an opportunity for you to plan and prepare together. Please do remember that GCSE examinations are national events that have strict start and finish times, which occur across the country on the same day at the same time, and therefore cannot be rescheduled or re-sat if they are missed.

There will be 18 teaching days between our return after the Easter holiday's and our Y11s first exam. The link below takes you to the academic support section of our school website which has revision links for individual subjects areas. We encourage you to ensure your child is revising little and often through the Easter holidays.

<https://www.astonacademy.org/page/?title=Academic+Support&pid=82>

Moving forward, in preparation for the upcoming examinations, the Year 11 Team have been focusing on building a 'Booster' session timetable that will maximise learning for individual subject areas directly before students sit that particular exam. More information will be shared about this on our return in April.

Attendance is Key to Success



1 - As always, attendance is a key theme in our weekly assembly. We know through studies that attendance is directly linked to attainment.

Missing out on important parts of the curriculum due to low attendance will result in poorer performance in the summer examinations, increased risk of dropping out and a lower likelihood of progressing to higher education.

Please support us in ensuring your child is at school all day, every day and on-time over the next two months! Attendance and punctuality are key to fulfilling your potential, as well as being a lifelong skills. Lessons begin at 08:40 - our students should be through the gates and making their way to their classrooms for 08:35. Five minutes lost learning at the start of a lesson through lateness and poor punctuality can mean that students are missing vital recapping information which they might need to retrieve for an examination question - at this stage, every minute counts.

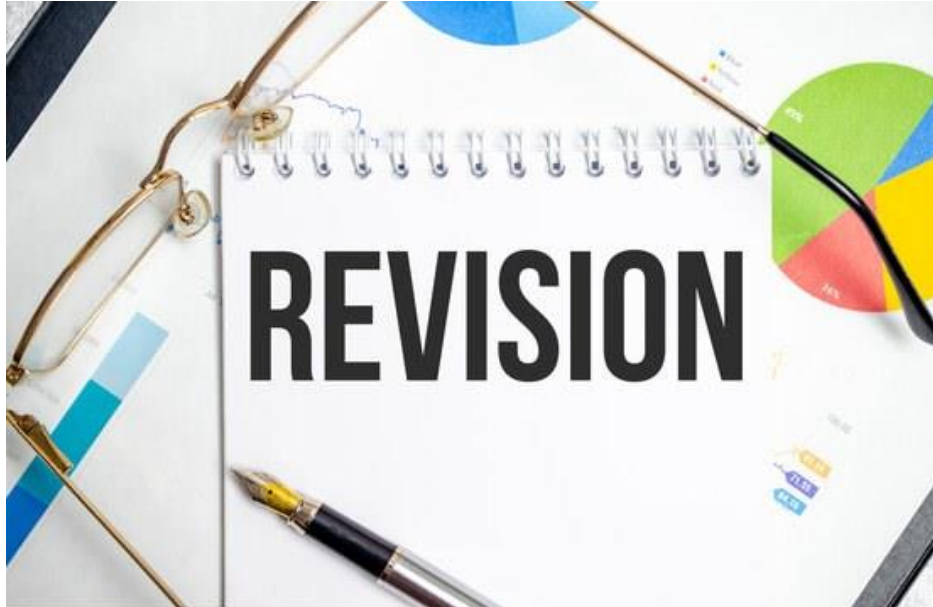
Post 16, Careers Advice and Kooth



During this half-term we have had an array of guest speakers into our Year 11 Assemblies. We have had talks from the National Apprenticeship Service, National Citizen Service, Rotherham United Community Trust and Kooth (to name a few!). Across the term, our assemblies have provided advice around Post 16 options, Further Education, citizenship, physical and mental wellbeing. We understand that school is not just about GCSE results and that Year 11 can be a challenging time for our students. We want them to leave Aston Academy as the best version of themselves, but recognise they may need help and support on the way. Our students know the Year Team are here to help. <https://www.kooth.com/> is also an excellent resource to support the mental health of your child. It a completely free and confidential service.

If you have any concerns regarding your child's Post 16 pathways, please do get in touch - Mr Shaw and Mr Raymond are our excellent careers advisors who will be happy to help and support.

Revision Festival - Tuesday 16th April 4:30 - 6pm



Please come along to our revision festival on Tuesday 16th April 2024. The basis of the evening is to demonstrate a variety of revision methods to both you and your children, empowering you, as parents, to support your children in building successful revision habits and techniques. We understand this is a daunting time for parents and carers, and that you want to assist revision at home, but may not always feel confident in doing so - fear not, we are here to help!

Students can also often feel overwhelmed at the prospect of revision, not knowing where to start... and therefore, don't start at all. We will be on hand on the evening to give practical advice and tips, demonstrating specific methods, build revision timetables with you and there will be plenty of material to collect.

Easter School Revision



Day- April	Morning Session 10-12	Afternoon session 12.30-2.30
Tues 2nd	English Literature in E1/E3 English Language Narrative Booster for 7+ in G3- <i>invitation Only</i>	English Language in E1/E3
Wed 3rd	Enterprise & Marketing - S1	Media in S1 Maths targeted 4+ <i>invitation Only</i>
Thur 4th	History - Germany Facts & Revision techniques in N1.7 Music- Listening and appraising revision and techniques in G1.6	History in N1.7- The Western Front & Medicine plus exam technique. Separate Biology in M1.2 Music - Composition refinement in G1.6
Mon 8th	Combined Science Spanish in M3 Targeted at students on higher paper	Maths targeted 5+ <i>invitation Only</i>
Tues 9th	Separate Science- Chemistry in M1.3 Separate Science-Physics in S1.3 Art in F1.5	Maths targeted 4+ <i>invitation Only</i> Art in F1.5.

2 - As per previous correspondence, we will be holding an Easter Revision School on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 8th and 9th of April. Please see the attached timetable or your original letter for the dates school will be open and the subject sessions running. In addition to the subject sessions, we will be opening up the Post 16 Common Room for any Y11s wishing to complete silent study/ revision.

On arrival to school, all Y11 students need to sign-in in the Post 16 Common Room. The school gates will open at 9.45am and close at 10am; open at 12pm and close at 12.30pm and then open again for students leaving at 1.45pm. Please be aware, the school gates will not be open outside of these times, if your child wants to leave school site, they will need to sign out in Post 16 Common Room where a member of Senior Leadership will be on duty and will walk them off site.

*Please be aware there will not be any catering facilities on school site during the Easter holidays- this includes the Post 16 Common Room cafe being closed. Students do **not** need to wear school uniform to attend.*

Celebrations....



Y11 Netball:

Our Y11 Netball girls fought a valiant fight to beat Wales but then lost to Wath. The Y11 team played Wales High School in a repeat of last years semi-final. In a very tight game the girls showed great determination to secure their place in the final against Wath. The team gave every effort to keep the scores close and battled throughout to keep Aston a threat going forwards. Unfortunately, it wasn't meant to be as Wath claimed the trophy. However, all girls were outstanding and should be extremely proud of the commitment they have shown to Netball at Aston for the last 5 years. Well done girls, we're very proud of you!



*3 - Mr Scantlebury, our very own Y11 Learning Progress Manager was invited down to London a few weeks ago to be **inducted into the British Basketball League Hall of Fame at the 2024 All Star Game.***

*Whether you are a keen basketball fan or not, you will all appreciate this is a **HUGE DEAL** and our very humble colleague has been back in his high vis as normal this week.*

We are so honoured to have such an incredible sports star on our staff body, but the lessons of resilience, kindness and work ethic that Mr Scantlebury instils in our young people is just amazing!

Our Year 11's were amazing and genuinely proud and pleased for him when we celebrated this in our Monday Assembly this week - it was lovely to witness!



4 - Good Eggs and Top 100!

This week we are also celebrating our 'Top 100' Assembly. Students with the highest number of conduct points from January to Easter were entered for a series of random draws which gave them the opportunity to win £25x2, £10x2, £5x2 Meadowhall vouchers!

We have also had a further 'Good Egg' reward of a small Easter treat for 48 students nominated by their subject teachers for excellent contributions and demonstrating our core values! Well done everyone!

It has been a challenging term and we have seen our students show immeasurable resilience, commitment and responsibility - we wish you all a restful and happy Easter break!

Key dates Term 3

2024 CALENDAR



Term 3: The first day back for students will be Monday 15th April - all students should arrive to the Academy at the usual time of 8:40am.

Other Important Dates:

- Tuesday 16th April - Revision Festival
- Monday 22nd April 2024 - Start of real MFL speaking exams.
- Tuesday 30th April 2024 - Start of GCSE Art NEA
- Thursday 9th May 2024 - National examinations begin across all exam boards as set out by the Joint Council for Qualifications.
- Thursday 4th July 2024 - Prom at Magna