



December 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

A big well done to all the Year 11s who have come back after the Summer holidays with a brilliant attitude and a very determined and mature approach to their studies. A big thank you, to you as a parent, for your support this term. The parents evening had our best turnout ever and was a really positive event.

There are some key ingredients to a student's success: punctuality; behaviour; a good attitude to learning are critical for students to achieve their best.

Good attendance is vital, and we would ask you to ensure your child is present each day. With the pressure to complete course content and coursework and provide plenty of time for revision sessions, any absence will seriously jeopardize chances of achieving the best possible grades. If your child is feeling slightly under the weather please encourage resilience by sending them into school.

After Christmas the students will be sitting their mock exams and a few students will have their real examinations in the following subjects: Music, Construction and Health & Social Care. As a parent / carer there are a number of resources that will help you to support your child.

Show My Homework

As a parent you should have a code that allows you to log on to Show my Homework. When you log in, you will be able to see all homework and revision tasks set for your child. Please use this to help them plan their time and complete their homework to the highest standards. If you would like a reminder of this code, then please let me know.

GCSE Help Icon

If you click on this icon on the school website it will take you to every subject area and also provide some general hints and tips on how to revise effectively. In each subject area, there will be a folder relating to the January exams. This will give a checklist of key topics they need to revise, the date of their exams and some key resources to help them.

Revision Sessions

Revision sessions have already begun and we ask you to encourage your child to take every opportunity that is given to them to ensure they reach their potential. Information on the revision sessions are available from the school website and facebook page.

Unstoppable Teens

Some of you attended the Kevin Mincher Unstoppable Teen evening in September. Kevin is an inspirational speaker who works with and has completed in-depth research on "learning to learn" skills and motivating young people. The feedback from both students and parents on the day and evening sessions was incredibly positive. Please have a look on the Unstoppable Teen website on how to support your child during their GCSEs.

Tassomai

I am sure that your child has spoken to you about the science app called Tassomai. Tassomai make the claim that over 80% of students who stay on track with the Tassomai quizzes achieve at least a 6-6 in science. Science results at Brannel are in the top 10% nationally and Tassomai certainly plays a part in this. Please encourage your child to stay on track. They should aim to complete 4 out of 7 daily tasks. Tassomai also highlights key areas for staff to go back over in the build up to the exams. Tassomai are updating their app so that you, as parents, can log on and check the progress your child is making. In the meantime, you will be receiving a report, by email, from Tassomai.

Mentors, Tutors and Revision Plans

Please ask to see your child's revision plan for their mock exams and help them to stick to it over Christmas. They should have completed one with their mentor or tutor. A copy on the fridge is often a helpful reminder. We know that students who prepare thoroughly for their mocks achieve higher than national grades in the Summer.

Post 16

Please ask your child about their plans for post 16. Encourage them to complete their application and seek advice or help if they need it. Often when the students know the course they want to follow and the grades they require, their focus and motivation towards exams improves.

Calendar of Events

- 10th January 9am BTEC Music and Construction Exams
- 11th January 9am Health & Social Care Exam
- 14th-25th January Mock Exams
- 26th & 27th March Drama GCSE Performance
- 23rd & 24th April Photography GCSE Exam
- 25th & 26th April Art GCSE Exam
- 29th April-3rd May Spanish GCSE Speaking Exam
- 13th May-26th June GCSEs. Students must be available up to, and including, 26th June.
- 22nd August Results Day

Once again, a big thank you for all the support you are giving your child and the school. It is a real team effort to get them through their GCSEs. It is a very stressful time for many students but certainly worth all the hard work. Please contact myself should you have any queries, concerns or questions.

Regards

Mr Goodwin
Deputy Headteacher