



Walderslade Girls' School

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Dear Year 11 Students, Parents, and Carers,

We hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. As you are aware, the formal GCSE exams are rapidly approaching, and we want to ensure that you have all the support you need during this crucial time. To assist you in your preparations, we are delighted to announce the introduction of our after-school "Cram" sessions.

These sessions are designed to provide additional support for the Core subjects and will be held just before the major Core exams. All Y11 students are invited. Scheduled from 3-5pm, these sessions offer high-quality last-minute revision, as well as the opportunity to enjoy some delicious food. During these sessions, we will be serving pizza and nuggets, cakes and treats, so you can 'cram' both your minds and your bellies! We understand that attendance preferences may vary, so sessions are optional. Students are welcome to stay for the full session or for as long as they are able.

Monday 15th May: 3-5pm: Science
Tuesday 16th May: 3-5pm: English
Thursday 18th May: 3-5pm: Maths
Tuesday 23rd May: 3-5pm: English
Wednesday 24th May: 3-5pm: Science
Tuesday 6th June: 3-5pm: Maths
Thursday 8th June: 3-5pm: English
Monday 12th June: 3-5pm: Science

In addition to these "Cram" sessions, we continue to offer intervention and revision sessions that are already underway. There will be other sessions added nearer the time too (some invite only and some open to all) and we'll keep you posted when these are available – some will be happening over May half-term, for example. These sessions cover a range of subjects and provide vital support in preparing for the exams. We strongly encourage all students to take advantage of these opportunities to enhance their understanding and confidence.

To ensure students are well-prepared for the exams, we kindly remind you of a few important considerations. First and foremost, prioritise helping your child/ward getting sufficient sleep and starting the day with a nourishing breakfast. Establishing a well-structured revision timetable and study plan will help them allocate time effectively and



cover all necessary topics. Please remember to help keep them organised – ensure they bring the required equipment, such as calculators for applicable exams, and keep mobile phones on silent in their bags, or ideally, leave them at home altogether.

We want to assure you that our school is committed to supporting every student throughout the exam season. Snacks and water will be provided to those who require them to maintain focus and energy. Furthermore, our dedicated staff members will deliver short briefings before each exam to offer guidance and reassurance.

While the upcoming exams are crucial, it is important not to overlook the significance of the lessons taking place in class at this time. Every lesson has been designed to have a substantial impact on attainment, so punctuality and 100% attendance are paramount. Students' active participation will undoubtedly make a difference in your final performance. It is always at this crucial time the most progress seems to be made.

To further support our young people in their preparations for the GCSE exam season, we would like to offer some top tips:

- Create a calm and organised study environment that suits individual needs.
- Break down subjects into manageable chunks and allocate specific time slots for each.
- Practice past papers and sample questions to become familiar with the exam format.
- Seek assistance from teachers or peers if you encounter difficulties or require clarification.
- Take short breaks during study sessions to recharge and maintain focus.
- Set up a Reward schedule! Treat yourself for your hard work every now and then. It's great to have something to look forward to.
- Stay positive and maintain a growth mindset; believe in your abilities and potential.

In conclusion, we want to express our heartfelt appreciation for your dedication and hard work throughout your time with us. As a cohort, you have shown tremendous resilience and determination, and we are incredibly proud of each and every one of you.

Now is the time for you to shine, to showcase the knowledge and skills you have acquired, and to embrace this opportunity to excel. Remember, we are here for you every step of the way. Should you require any further guidance or support, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

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