



Ark Elvin Academy

21st October 2021

Dear Year 11 Parents/Carers,

It has been a great first half-term at Elvin. The pupils returned after their summer break ready to work hard to help ensure that they are successful in their GCSEs next May and June. We want to ensure we build on this good start by sharing some key information with you.

Key Dates

Date	What	Purpose
Week beginning 01.11.21	Maths and English assessments held in the Hall in exam conditions for all Year 11 pupils	Pupils complete exams in timed conditions to see what they have learnt
Week beginning 08.11.21	Assessments in all subjects held in classrooms in exam conditions for all Year 11 pupils	
02.12.21	Pupils receive their results in form time and report cards emailed home Year 11 parents event held on Teams to go through report cards	For pupils and parents to understand what is going well and the hard work needed to be successful
06.01.22	Parents Review Day for all year groups	Pupils and parents review progress in all subjects with the pupil's form tutor
Week beginning 28.02.22	Mock exams begin for all subjects – held in the hall in exam conditions	A final set of mock exams to ensure that pupils are fully prepared for the final GCSE exams
21.04.22	Parent Review Day Exam results for all subjects	Review the mock results and ensure all pupils are working hard in preparation for the final GCSE exams
May-June 2022	GCSE exams!	Complete GCSE exams!
25.08.22	GCSE results day	Collect results and sign up for next step (e.g. Elvin Sixth Form)

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Why are the mock exams important?

We are holding assessments in all subjects in the first two weeks back after half term. This is a vital opportunity for a number of reasons. Firstly, it gives pupils the chance to practice sitting formal exams in the hall.

Secondly, it helps the pupils focus their revision by making sure they complete all the tasks that their teachers set.

Thirdly, it gives teachers more information about what the pupils know and don't know and allows us to support them in the build up to the next set of mock exams.

How much work should pupils do over half-term?

All departments have shared the work that they expect pupils to complete over half term. Pupils have been given a plan to complete to ensure they have blocked out time to do this well. Each subject has set between 20-30 minutes worth of work a day to complete for five days. This means the pupils should complete 2.5-3 hours worth of work each day for five days.

We believe this is a good amount of work in preparation for mock exams when they return, whilst still ensuring that there is time to rest and relax over the half term break.

Teachers have been clear with pupils about what they should do when. The work has also been set on Microsoft Teams where pupils can access it online. If pupils are unsure what to do they should check Microsoft Teams.

How can you support your child?

We know that pupils are most successful when they plan their time. Please check in with their plan and make sure that they follow it– they should aim to work Monday-Friday for 3 hours each day, allowing them the weekends and afternoon to relax.

You can also help by:

- Setting up a quiet area the pupils can use to revise and study – pupils should not have mobile phones/electronic devices as these are a distraction. There are



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specific pieces of homework the pupils need to use their devices for e.g. Hegarty Maths

- Making sure that they feel supported – check in with them each day about the work they are doing and make sure that they are on track with their homework completion
- Support wellbeing – make sure that your son/daughter is eating healthy meals and is getting enough sleep

Finally, we know that pupils can only learn if they are in school. Please make sure that if your child is well they are in school on time after half term.

If you have any questions please contact the Head of Year 11, Mr Hamill, at:

T.Hammill@arkelvinacademy.org

I can be contacted via the email address below.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Cook

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