

OPA Year 11

Autumn Term Update

Spring Term Information

Monday 20th December 2021

Believe & Achieve



Mrs S. Thacker, Assistant Principal

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Y11 Mentoring Programme

The Y11 mentoring programme has been very useful in terms of figuring out what I need to work on, what my targets are and how to continue challenging myself. My mentor encouraged me and helped me in these things. I am happy to have a mentor with whom I can have these conversations with.

The mentoring sessions were very helpful and I felt supported and knew what I had to do in my subjects like how to revise, what I need to improve on etc. Having someone to talk to about my worries or where to go forward, they relieved the stress of the mocks and gave me confidence to get better grades.

Firstly I find the Mentoring sessions helpful with reminding myself to stay on top of work and other bits that I need to do and that is the same with the revision sessions before mocks when the Extra time with our teachers was very needed before mocks especially with geography where there is so much content and where it can be quite subjective sometimes.

Each student has been assigned a mentor who sets them goals and aspirations for the future. These have to be completed for a certain date and the mentor checks the progress of the student according to this. Within the meetings, we discuss our grades, revision guides, and mock exam preparation with our mentor. If you attend your mentoring meeting, you get a free lunch which is a good incentive. I found this helpful because you will always have a reliable member of staff to discuss your concerns, not even just within education but anything that could be barrier to your success. One thing that I admire is how willing the staff are to support you; they wish to see you succeed and will help you at any cost. An improvement to this is perhaps having more frequent meetings, so progress can be checked more regularly.

The year 11 mentoring programme has been extremely useful as it has not only given us the opportunity to receive educational guidance in what is notoriously the most difficult year at secondary school, but we have been able to develop a better relationship with our given teacher which means we will be more likely to ask for help.

We were also given mentors to aid us with our revision up until our GCSE exams and were provided with school funded revision books prior to the mentor sessions. Personally I haven't found them too helpful other than the fact that I have been able to track my revision progress and ask for help revising when I needed it. It definitely provided good outcomes, however the sessions could have been planned out and thought about more when it comes to times and new teachers who don't understand what they are being asked to do during these sessions.

I believe the mentoring programme is a helpful thing provided to the year 11's, as they can discuss their current grades, raise any concerns, and speak about their career to a certain teacher that will be able to listen and give direct answers to the questions, specifically to their career. The mentors are there to help students with their upcoming exams, and post 16 options too, such as, if an individual cannot revise, the mentor will offer to help the student create a revision timetable etc.

The mentoring sessions helped a lot to guide me and identify things I need to improve and work on to get the best results I can while being the best I can for the end of the school year along with things can also help after school.

Y11 Revision Programme & Independent Study Timetable

STUDENT NAME:						
W/C 4TH OCTOBER - AFTERSCHOOL INDEPENDENT REVISION						
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
MATHS P1	BIOLOGY P1	CHEMISTRY P1	PHYSICS P1	OPTION A	OPTION B	ENGLISH LANGUAGE P1
PHYSICS P2	CHEMISTRY P2	BIOLOGY P2	MATHS P2	ENGLISH LIT P2	OPTION C	MATHS
CHEMISTRY P1	BIOLOGY P1	MATHS P1	ENGLISH LIT P1	PHYSICS P1	ENGLISH LITERATURE P1	BIOLOGY

W/C 1ST NOVEMBER - AFTERSCHOOL INDEPENDENT REVISION						
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
CHEMISTRY P1	PHYSICS P1	OPTION A	OPTION B	OPTION C	ENGLISH LANGUAGE P1	CHEMISTRY P1
MATHS P1	ENGLISH LIT P1	OPTION A	OPTION B	OPTION C	MATHS P2	PHYSICS P2
OPTION A	OPTION B	OPTION C	ENGLISH LIT P2	MATHS P2	BIOLOGY P2	OPTION A

MONDAY	OPTION B	OPTION C	MATHS P1	OPTION A
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MONDAY	ENGLISH LITERATURE P1	MATHS P1	ENGLISH LIT P1	BIOLOGY
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MONDAY	MATHS P1	BIOLOGY P2	BIOLOGY P1
MATHS P1	BIOLOGY P2	BIOLOGY P1	

MOCK WEEK 1 - AFTERSCHOOL INDEPENDENT REVISION						
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	BIOLOGY P1	ENGLISH LIT P1	ENGLISH LIT P1	ENGLISH LIT P2	MATHS P2	ENGLISH LIT P2
FRENCH / BIOLOGY P1	GEOGRAPHY / CHEMISTRY P1	FRENCH / PHYSICS P1	PHYSICS P1	BIOLOGY P2	HISTORY P2 / BIOLOGY P2	BIOLOGY P2
BIOLOGY P2	OPTION A	CHEMISTRY P2	OPTION B	OPTION C	PHYSICS P2	FRENCH P2 / MATHS P2

MOCK WEEK 2 - AFTERSCHOOL INDEPENDENT REVISION						
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
MATHS P2	CHEMISTRY P2	PHYSICS P2	YAY!! ALL FINISHED!			
HISTORY P2	FRENCH / PHYSICS P2	PHYSICS P2				

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
BEFORE SCHOOL			History BAR 7.30-8.20am Rm 10			ENGLISH INTERVENTION 9.30 - 11.30am BY INVITATION ONLY
FB1	Physics RAV Room 34		Biology DUR Room 34			
FB2			Biology DUR Room 34			
AFTER SCHOOL		History RAY 3-4pm Rm 11	French Room 21 15.10-16.10pm	English Literature SHR/SML R23	Chemistry Paper 1 THA Rm17 3-10 - 4:10PM	MATHS INTERVENTION 9.30 - 11.30am BY INVITATION ONLY
		WK A Geog HEW Rm 9 3-4pm	Physics GOP Room 34	Art CSA Room 13	Business Unit 1 MCC Rm 26 3-10-4.10 PM	
		ENGLISH & MATHS BY INVITATION ONLY 3-5PM	Engineering STEM Club Rm 15 3-4PM			
		Art CSA Room 13	WK B Geog MCA Rm 9 3-4pm			

SHOW MY HOMEWORK	YOUR EXERCISE BOOKS	YOUTUBE REVISION VIDEOS	COLLINS REVISION GUIDES	GCSEPOD
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AIMING FOR GRADES:	
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HOW TO USE & REVISION TIPS	
MINIMUM REVISION YOU SHOULD BE DOING	BLUE FONT
ADDITIONAL REVISION YOU MAY WISH TO DO	RED FONT
EXTRA	DARK RED

SUBJECTS TO REVERSE	
NOT ALL OPTION SUBJECTS HAVE NOVEMBER MOCK EXAMS	
OPTION A SUBJECTS IN THE MOCKS	Geography History
OPTION B SUBJECTS IN THE MOCKS	French Geography
OPTION C SUBJECTS IN THE MOCKS	French History

FORMAL EXAMS COMING UP IN NOVEMBER!!!
Business Studies Friday 26th November 9am
Engineering Thurs 25th November 9am

If you do not have Mock or November exams for Option Subjects A, B or C: Revise extra Maths & English	
HOW LONG SHOULD YOU REVERSE FOR?	1HR AT A TIME
MAKE SURE TO HAVE A 10-15 MIN BREAK BETWEEN EACH 1HR SESSION	

TURNOFF YOUR PHONE & TV WHILE YOU REVERSE.
DONT LISTEN TO MUSIC WHILE YOU REVERSE, IT WILL IMPACT YOUR COGNITIVE PROCESSING AND MAKE YOU TIRE FASTER. YOUR REVISION WILL BE LESS EFFECTIVE!!!
USE YOUR REVISION BOOKS!! COMPLETE THE EXAM QUESTIONS & MARK THEM

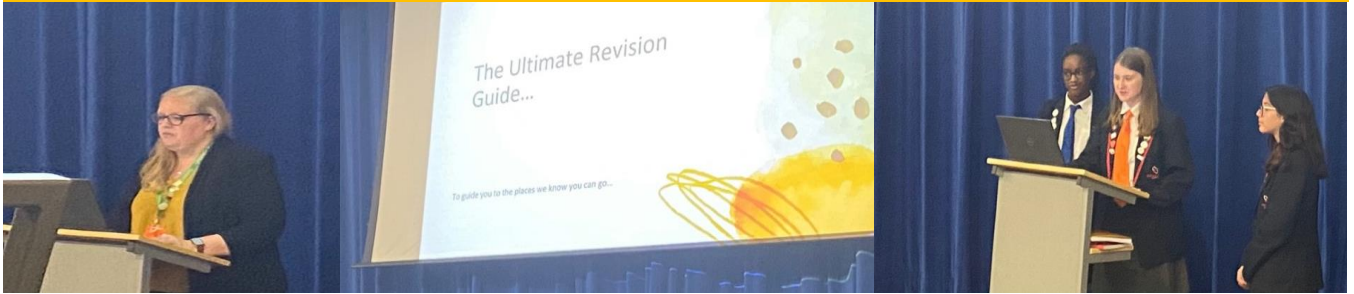
EAT WELL	SLEEP WELL
DRINK PLENTY OF WATER	TAKE REGULAR BREAKS

FORMAL EXAMS COMING UP IN NOVEMBER!!!
Business Studies Friday 26th November
Engineering Thursday 25th November

REVISION & DROP-IN SESSIONS PROVIDED BY YOUR TEACHERS
THESE ARE ADDITIONAL TO YOUR INDEPENDENT REVISION

EAT WELL	SLEEP WELL
DRINK PLENTY OF WATER	TAKE REGULAR BREAKS

Information Event for Y11 Parents/Carers



Information Meeting for Parent/Carers of Y11 students

Took Place on

Thursday 14th October 2021
5:00pm - 5:30pm OR 6:45- 6:15pm

Attended by 65 parents/carers

We will be able to provide information on our:

- Y11 Mentoring Programme (all Year 11 students are taking part in)
- November Mock Exams timetable and revision content lists
- Advice and guidance on effective revision
- Teacher Assessed Grades for vocational courses
- Formal external exams in November for Business and Engineering
- Coursework requirements for vocational courses
- Predicted Grades for colleges and sixth forms, and how/when your child should be applying.
- After school and Half term revision and Reward trip to Fright Night

Half Term Revision & Thorpe Park Reward Trip



Half Term revision sessions:

We attended at least 3 revision sessions during the half term, where we came into school to focus on a particular subject, in preparation for our mock exams. We first had to complete forms for the subjects we wished to come in for. The majority of us got our first choice of options however OPA ultimately made the decision on which subjects would be most beneficial for a student. One thing that I found truly helpful about these revision sessions is how many topics we covered. It made me more confident going into the exam as I knew I had done the most preparation I could in order to do well. The teachers cleared any misconceptions we had and overall, it was a brilliant idea and incentive for our Thorpe Park Reward Trip. One improvement that could be made is either how large the classes were (perhaps smaller classes equates to more individual support) or the duration of the revision sessions (perhaps slightly longer might mean that we have more time to cover content; this would mean we would have to have an additional break like a typical school day.)

The half term revision sessions we had prior to our November mock exams were instrumental to the academic success the year group had. We were able to receive aid in subjects that we felt we were weaker in and on top of that, we were rewarded with a trip to Thorpe Park.

Overall I liked the way year 11 has started and the way miss Thacker has taken time to organise these lovely trips and the helpful revision sessions for us to do our best in our mocks and in the future. I hope it continues.

This trip was extremely fun and entertaining as we got to go on rides, okay fun theme park games and overall relax before our mock exams. This was a great incentive for revision and I have no complaints about how the trip was run because safety and a brilliant time was prioritised.

The half term revision sessions are very helpful as some students cannot revise or study properly at home. The revision sessions allowed us to study things that were going to come up on the mocks and prepared us better. The trip was a great way of letting the students to cool off and have a 'brain break', allowing the students to socialise with their friends more safely, and get to know each other, as well as a great break for the teachers too.

Half Term Revision Sessions Attendance & Evaluation

There was a total of 200 session places allocated out altogether:
173 places were attended



70 students had signed up to attend at least one session:

The majority of students **were allocated three sessions each** to attend and this was determined by the mock results from June in Y10, with students being allocated the three subjects they most needed to improve in.

Business and Engineering were the only vocational subjects offered due to formal exams in these subjects scheduled for the end of November. All other sessions were for Core and Ebacc subjects, focusing on preparations for the mock exams, which commenced on Monday 8th November and continue this week.

96% of the students who had signed up attended the revision sessions:

- **67 out of the 70 students (who signed up) attended at least one of their sessions.**
- 3 students who had signed up did not attend any sessions.
- 2 students who were originally not signed up, attended at least 2 sessions.

This meant a total of 69 students attended one or more sessions.
The majority (60+) attended all sessions allocated to them.

48 students and 1 bear (out of 50 originally signed up) attended the Reward Trip to Fright Night at Thorpe Park on Friday 29th October, for attending their three allocated revision sessions.

WEEK 1	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI
SUBJECT	HISTORY	ENGLISH	GEOGRAPHY	GEOGRAPHY	BUSINESS
ATTENDED	20	24	13	10	10
INVITED	20	28	14	11	12

WEEK 2	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	FRI
SUBJECT	MATHS	ENGINEERING	PHYSICS	BIOLOGY	MATHS	REWARD TRIP
ATTENDED	19	9	27	22	19	48
INVITED	25	10	30	29	21	50

TOTAL SESSIONS ATTENDED:	173	87%
TOTAL SESSIONS INVITED:	200	

NUMBER OF STUDENTS ATTENDING ONE OR MORE SESSIONS:	69	63%
NUMBER OF STUDENTS INVITED TO AT LEAST ONE SESSION:	70	64%

3 Didn't attend any
2 Additional attended

Tuesdays 3-5pm & Saturday Mornings BASICS (9-5) Intervention for Maths & English



The half term and the Saturday sessions were really helpful as I have just joined the academy in October. It really helped me revise for my November mocks. I was really worried at first for my November mocks but the amount of support and help I received from the half term sessions was amazing and it really help boost my confidence and made me push myself harder. I am really grateful for all the teachers who took their time out during the half term and on Saturday's to help me and support me through my mocks.

The things Miss Thacker has been setting up for all us year 11s have been very resourceful and I quite liked the way she had made time for us to plan things like half term revision sessions and Tuesday and Saturday lessons. I find that with those sessions I had learnt quite a lot of things that I was struggling with for example in Maths I was struggling with ratio and by going to my Saturday lesson which was Maths I had learnt ratio and I can now understand it better. As a result of going to those sessions, I got to go to winter wonderland which I found very fun and eventful.

The math revision sessions are helpful as our teachers are motivating us to push ourselves better, and teaching us content allowing us to catch up or work ahead of the work already set.

Although I only attended one (I couldn't go anymore because it was getting dark quick). The one session helped a lot. I attended a Maths session and even though Maths is my strongest subject I had always struggled with quadratic simultaneous equations, and I got it easily in that session and I went into the mock exam and still remembered how to do it so they would have helped me a lot more if I was able to attend all but the one I went to helped a lot already.

I attended a Maths and English sessions every week on a Tuesday and Saturday. On a Tuesday I had English with Mr. Shercliff where he worked through an exam question together as a class for the first hour and then we independently answered the exam question for the next hour which was then taken and marked by the same teacher to give us feedback the next week. This was a great help and I feel it helped me during my mock exams. The Maths sessions were basically the same in the layout of the 2 hours.



Mock Exams & Predicted Grades



From Monday 8th November, our Year 11 students completed a fortnight of mock examinations in order to help prepare them for the 'real thing', to provide evidence for their predicted grades (which are shared with colleges and sixth forms and apprenticeship providers in their references), and to provide evidence for Teacher Assessed Grades, should the real exams be cancelled at a later date.

Overall, the students conducted themselves excellently during the mock exams, which take place in exam conditions, adhering to the JCQ exam regulations.

The mock tests are very helpful as this is making us ease into the environment, we will be during our actual GCSE exams, and the exam conditions are being practiced and bettered.

Miss Thacker also sometimes runs the assemblies and shows us the importance of exams and different techniques of how to revise and how the exams are done and which I found very useful because now I understand the point of exams and how they are done but also I have found since the assemblies have been happening I've learnt different revision techniques now yes that work for me that I didn't know would work. When we were about to start our mocks, we were given a revision timetable which also was very good and helped me study better and more effectively managing my time has been hard but with the timetable I was able to have a couple of hours of solid revision which helped as I would tend to revise the subjects I liked and leave the ones I disliked.

As for the mocks, having them 100% helps with getting used to the setting of an exam hall, I know that if I didn't get to experience it before the real exams, I would have had a huge panic attack with all the pressure so getting used to it months before is a good idea. The only complaint I would have been that there were no breaks this time around it was just consistent exams for 2 weeks straight which is very tiring to be honest. Then you would have to come home and revise for 2 hours after 2 exams. It was a bit draining.

Mock exams were run in a professional manner, it was as though we were sitting our GCSE final exams. The practice beforehand made the daunting experience of sitting down in an exam hall full of candidates and tables less stressful. I felt strangely calm and I believe that was due to the constant reassurance of our teachers and our own confidence that we gathered through revision. Perhaps one key improvement area is letting us know the exact mock exam date earlier than one month. I have not asked for the topic list to be given earlier as we will not have anything narrowed down for us in the final exams, but to know the date of our first mock earlier means earlier preparation.

Overall I feel like the Mock Exams (especially Year 10 ones) are extremely useful as when we sat our November round of mocks I felt less nervous in a way as I had already completed them before and just had to perfect my revision techniques instead of starting from scratch. If we did not complete mocks before and just went straight into exams I definitely would not do as well as I could. It's also helpful learning to write under exam conditions which is obviously going to be a useful skill to have.

Saturday Intervention for Vocational Courses



During HT2, after the mock exam window, we have provided targeted small group intervention for Y11 students in several vocational subjects, running from 10am – 2pm

- Saturday 20th November – Business and Engineering Exam Preparation
- Saturday 27th November - Creative iMedia coursework unit completion – Group 1
- Saturday 4th December – Sports Studies coursework unit completion
- Saturday 11th December - Creative iMedia coursework unit completion – Group 2

This sessions have enabled staff to target key priorities for revision ahead of the Business & Engineering exams the following week, and for students to secure level 2 Merits and level 2 Distinctions in their coursework units.



Intervention is a great thing offered to the vocational subjects because I have fallen behind on both these subjects and the intervention is extremely helpful as we are able to catch up and get the help, we need from our teachers that we would not be able to get at home.



University of East London, Docklands Campus Visit



The reward trip to winter wonderland and University of East London for the extra revision classes that I attended was a nice treat and enabled me to get an insight into a university's atmosphere and general day-to-day living. Personally I'm not really interested in going to university as I won't need to with what my career will involve but it definitely opened some pathways up for me and persuaded me that you don't have to be really intelligent to apply and isn't as boring as it's made to seem at a young age.

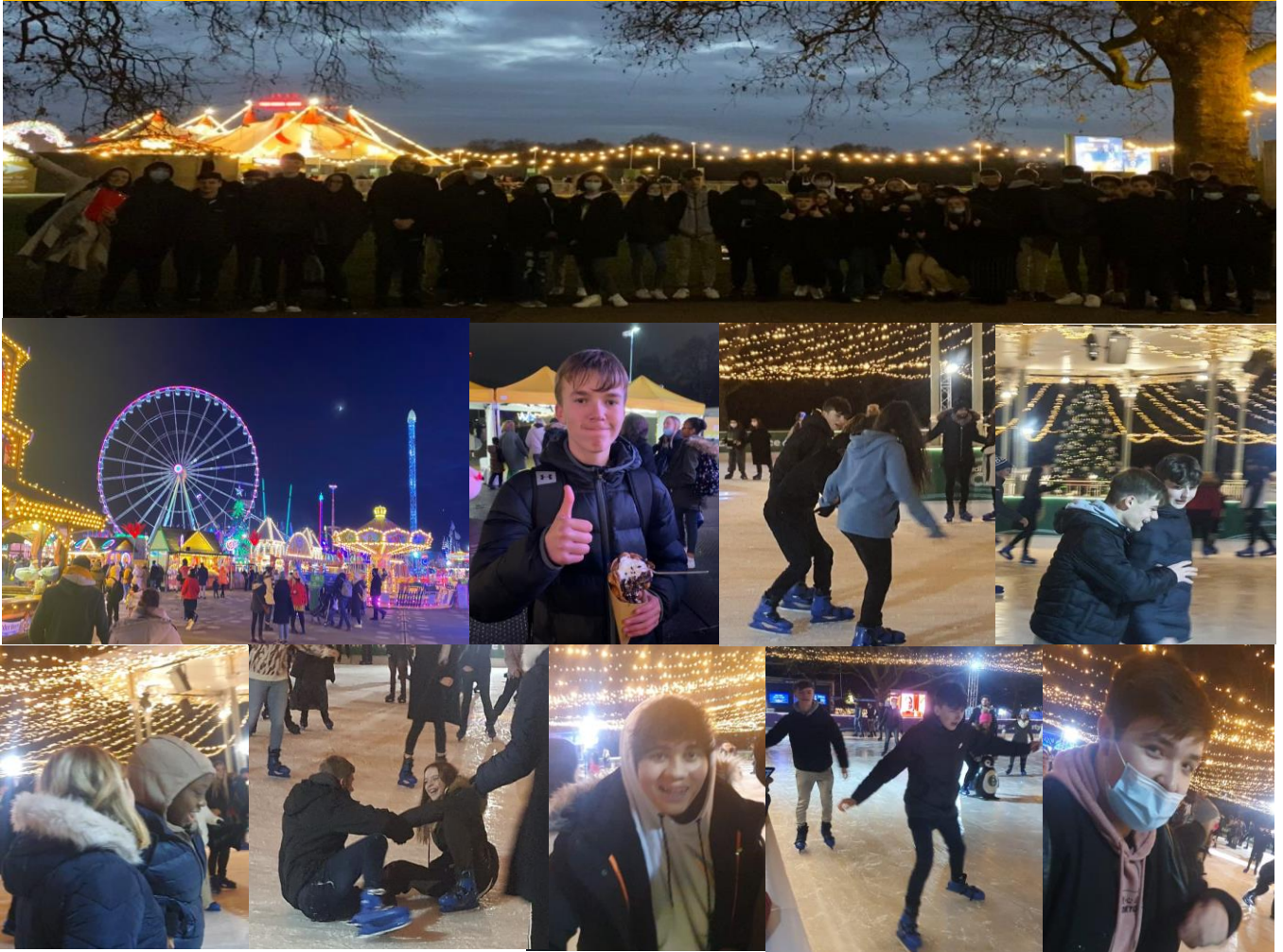
The taster sessions & tour at UEL allowed the year group to experience a real university and understand what it is really like to attend university. I think that prior to the trip, a lot of us didn't have much of an idea about going to university is like, and now we do. We were able to have an insight to embarking a Biomedical Science degree, and the flexibility of UEL. I am sure that more people are now thinking about university after finishing college.

The UEL session helped with exposing me to options I didn't know about. Honestly, I had barely thought of college, so I had 0 thought about university. The session was very informative.

The reward trips are very good and we did go to a university beforehand and we got to learn and understand university life a bit better.

The tour at UEL gave me a suitable insight into university life, the campus and the social side of education. The taster sessions were very helpful to see what a biomedicine degree is, what the cost of university is and how university can help you in the future. They got us to start thinking about our future, and our next steps. I think the best part of this trip was speaking to the students; one student (Carissa I believe) is an international student from America and it was so useful to see the difference in education system. Not only this, but we heard about all of the students' experiences at UEL and how university has helped them flourish as people.

Winter Wonderland Reward Trip



The Thorpe Park Fright Night Reward Trip and the Winter Wonderland Reward Trip were great incentives to persuade students who are unlikely to attend revision attend revision sessions. They are also really fun and allow our year group to become closer together in our final year. Please take us on more trips :)

Reward trips motivated me to go to revision sessions and as someone who does not have a very quiet house and sleeps a lot as soon as I get home having those sessions early in the morning at school benefited me I could for sure tell a difference in my exams this time around versus last year whether it was small or big. The reward trips were all enjoyable too and I had a great time at both. They were good ways of getting me to revise for sure.



Other Support

Counselling/External Mentoring sessions

Counselling is great for students who really need it as they may not have someone to speak to about some things and the external mentoring sessions are also very helpful as this allows a teacher to have a 1 to 1 conversation with a student rather than a whole class.

Careers guidance meetings with the independent career's advisor

The careers meeting was a great opportunity for the students to sit down with an experienced person and have a think about their career and have the right advice, some students have everything figured out whereas some students don't know where to start hence why this meeting was very helpful.

Assemblies

I believe the assemblies are there so we can just have a run through of our progress throughout the week and another reason may be that the whole year group is able to get together and sit down, as the whole year group do not have ALL their classes together. The recent responsibilities assembly we had was very helpful and enlightening and this applied directly to us. This was created by students, and this made us understand more as we tend to think alike.

Overall I liked the way year 11 has started and the way miss Thacker has taken time to organise these lovely trips and the helpful revision sessions for us to do our best in our mocks and in the future. I hope it continues.

All the things organised by the school has helped towards my exam even just by a little last year when I did my mocks, I had to resit some papers and this time I didn't have to resit any so to me that's a step forward.

Every assembly we have had at OPA has been presented for a reason, so I believe it's more elements of the assemblies. For instance, every assembly, showing us the college/ sixth form open days so we can start thinking about post-16 options. Another key aspect is showing us our attendance progress and house points progress, so we can see that we are being praised for excellent work.

As much as I really enjoy my specific tutor group (and especially like Ms. Durant) having a 30-minute lesson before period 1 makes the day feel so long sometimes and may even lower my productivity in some cases as when it gets to period 2 it feels as though I've already had 2 lessons and is tiring sometimes. However, I do find the tutor sessions helpful in catching up on some of the content we've missed over the months

SPRING TERM INFORMATION

- **Y11 Mentoring Programme – Meeting 3 to take place.**
 - Each student will receive their 1:1 Mentoring meeting with their designated member of staff. The focus will be discussing their progress from Y10 to Y11 mocks, what preparations went well, what do they now need to work on and how will they prepare for the second round of mock exams in February.
- **Y11 Information Evenings for Parents**
 - We will be holding another information evening for parents of Y11 students in January. This will be on Teams, date and time TBC. Information will be given on how to motivate your child to revise more at home, ways the support them academically and their mental well being.
- **Y11 Mock Exams – Monday 28th Feb – Friday 11th March**
 - Students will be sitting their second and final round of GCSE mock exams the second week in Half Term 4.
 - The timetable will be published and shared with parents/carers and students at the beginning of January, along with another revision and independent study timetable.
- **Teacher Assessed Grades?**
 - The Government may make the difficult decision of cancelling the Summer 2022 exams, should exams need to be cancelled in other areas of the country. If this does happen, we will need to organise a third assessment window in order to meet the DfE regulations for evidence for Teacher Assessed Grades.
 - Should the Summer 2022 exams be cancelled, it is important your child continues to work hard in order to secure their best grades in the assessments we will use for evidence, as well as their mock exams.
- **Access Arrangement Testing**
 - Our Director of SEND, Mr Cambridge, has organised for some of our students to receive external formal assessments to diagnose exam access arrangements. Students can only receive access arrangements in formal exams if they have been formally assessed and diagnosed as requiring them. Parents/carers will be contacted by Mr Cambridge and his team to be made aware if this applies to their child.

SPRING TERM

UPCOMING FORMAL EXAMS

Exam Dates:

- Monday 10th January: Sports Studies AM Creative iMedia PM
- Wednesday 12th January: Hospitality & Catering AM
- Thursday 27th January: Child care & Development AM

Revision Sessions for these exams:

You child is aware of their exams and has received any resources needed to support their preparations at home in the lead up to these formal exams in January.

Mr Samuels, Mrs Fairest and Mrs Gakungu will also be providing some additional support during those first two weeks back at school. This should be viewed by your child as additional support for their own independent study and revision at home, in order to achieve their full potential in these exams, **which will count towards your child's final grade in these subjects.**

W/C 4th January 2022

- After school revision sessions for Creative iMedia, Sports Studies and Hospitality & Catering.

Saturday 8th January 10am – 2pm

- Sports Studies
- Creative iMedia
- Hospitality & Catering

W/C 10th January

- Additional revision sessions at Food breaks or Afterschool

W/C 24th January 2022

- Small group Child Care & Development exam prep. with date/timings TBC in the new year.