



## Year 10 Parent Bulletin – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

We have been delighted with the start Year 10 have made to the new term.

Students attended their first assembly with our new SLT link, Mr Atkins. The Year 10s displayed a fantastic attitude where they focused on their preparations for the GCSE RE Exam, which students will sit this academic year.

Over the next week, students will receive information in assembly from Mr Barratt regarding the Silver D of E scheme which is a fantastic enrichment opportunity for students, many of whom will have completed their bronze award last year. Please do discuss this brilliant opportunity if it is of interest to your child.

### Preparation for RE examinations

We are now into the second and final year of preparation for the RE GCSE with the examinations in the Summer Term of 2024. This is a great opportunity for students to gain a positive examination performance and achieve a grade that matches their potential. This will set them up for a successful Year 11, where they will complete all their other subject examinations. Valuable experience is always gained in the build-up of preparation for real exams, through the advice given in lessons and assemblies. 80% of our Year 10 students last year achieved a grade 4 or higher in RE, with many students achieving above their target grade by one, two or even three grades. The greater majority of students also find that the RE result is useful to them, in reference to the grades they need by the end of Year 11, to carry on their journey to a destination of their choice.

### Dates of mock exams

Mock 1 is timetabled for Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Students will meet in the canteen at 8.45am. This is a two hour paper. All students have a small pack of key revision resources for the main topics in the mock. This is also available on Go4schools. There will be an optional revision session for all students on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October, from 3.15-4.15pm in the RE rooms.

Mock 2 will be timetabled in Feb 2024. This will also be a two hour paper. From January onwards students will have the option to attend after school revision sessions on a weekly basis on key topics and exam structure. A timetable will be communicated nearer the time.

The mock exams have been planned with the intention of students demonstrating what they know, so they can receive valuable feedback on any gaps in their knowledge and continue to improve. We recommend that all students take advantage of the revision sessions to further support their preparation.

### Provisional final exam dates

Paper 1 Themes (Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024)

Paper 2 Christianity (Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024)

Paper 3 Islam (Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024)

## Parent Teams session

All parents will be invited to a Teams session on Wednesday 11 October 2023, from 6.15-6.45pm. The Head of RE will explain the structure of the RE GCSE and will discuss strategies for supporting students with revision at home. Details on how to join this meeting will be sent nearer the time to you.

## Revision strategies

The most common and effective types of revision used in RE are:

- Revision clocks with targeted questions
- Use of flash cards with spaced repetition for key concepts
- Timed exam question practice

Students are familiar with all these strategies. They can collect materials from their RE teachers at any time to support their independent revision.

## CyberCamps for Young Women and Non-Binary Students (13 – 19)

Mr Sycamore, Head of Computer Science, has shared information for students regarding CyberCamps by our digital screens, a copy of the information is below in case it is of interest.



[CyberCamps](#), is run by Cisco, in collaboration with the Open University and a collective of Female CyberSecurity experts from our NetAcad community. You do not need to be on any digital course – you could be exploring, it could be an extension activity or enable you to supplement your primary studies.

It will consist of a 100% remote journey, through the new Cisco CyberSecurity Technician accreditation. The course already has over 100 signed up and growing. You can join anytime with *sprints* starting in October, January, April, July etc. We do not expect you to spend more than three hours a week, in fact, you could effectively spend only 30mins per week at the beginning. **All courses are**

**badged** and contribute to your professional and career profiles.

Students that are interested can [please follow this link](#) to learn more. Alternatively your child can talk to Mr Sycamore in S218 – Computing Club for Girls running on Fridays (Week 1 only) would be a perfect place to engage in this opportunity.

## Social Media Concerns

On the whole, Year 10 students appear to have a well-rounded understanding of use of social media however, we have noticed an increase in the number of incidents being reported in school, which can impact on learning. As you may appreciate, this takes a considerable amount of time to address and investigate when it impacts on students' school life. We will continue to support students' understanding appropriately through our PSHE curriculum.

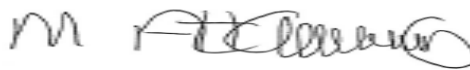
It is really important that parents check their young person's phone regularly and are aware of app updates such as Snapchat's new 'Your Eyes Only' section where young people can hide images etc. Please also be reminded that app developers can set their own age rating so remember to review the app yourself. On our website, under the [Online Safety Section](#), we have a number of Social Media articles which you may find helpful. We would also recommend that you and your child:

- Use the block and 'report abuse' facility on the relevant social media platform
- Refer to websites such as [www.thinkuknow.co.uk/](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/), [www.barnardos.org.uk/](http://www.barnardos.org.uk/) and [www.nspcc.org.uk/](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/) for useful advice and guidance
- Place time limits on apps and ensure students have a 'digital detox' so they are not spending too much time on social media

Thank you for your continued support.



Mrs. Clarke  
Head of Year 10, Park College Leader



Mr M. Atkins  
(Senior Assistant Headteacher)