



Thornhill Academy

Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions

Dear parent/carer

We have welcomed Year 11 back to school in our assembly this morning and set the scene for their final term with us at Thornhill. With first exams only a few weeks away we have asked all students to 'raise the bar'. There are going to be greater expectations of students to study independently and keep focused on their final lessons. Northumbria University will be visiting to deliver a third and final study skills session with year 11 and students will be expected to use these skills to plan and prepare their independent revision time outside of school. To further support this, we are inviting parents to an Exams Support Session on Wednesday 11th May and more details will be shared separately.

There are going to be greater opportunities for students to attend additional sessions in advance of their exams as their timetable will shift slightly when exams start to maximise their preparation time. Before exams we will expect all students to attend a compulsory period 6 revision lesson after school on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. All students will receive an updated timetable indicating their period 6 lesson ready for next week.

A further change will be in the student's exam venue. Our old exam rooms posed many barriers to students settling well into their exams. To raise the bar for our final exams we are moving the exam venue to the Sports Hall. This venue offers more space and storage to prevent disruption on arrival and ensure a calm and orderly arrival into the exam room. It allows students to have a consistent seating plan and removes the need to find their seat at the start of each exam, something which caused many students some understandable anxiety. The new venture will have a much more consistent temperature and light which was often a distraction for students in the old venue. This means that for their summer exams the temperature can be maintained at far more comfortable levels, supporting students to focus better on their exams. Students with access arrangements will continue to receive this as previously. Whilst we know this will be a positive move for students, we want to reassure you and them that we have plans in place to support them in this transition. Opportunities such as focussed assemblies, walking talking mocks and short tests in the Sports Hall will all help students become familiar, comfortable, and confident with the new venue ahead of the forthcoming exams.

Finally, in our assembly this morning we shared how to 'raise the bar'.

Belief + Action = Results

As we move closer to the exams students need to believe in themselves, believe that can achieve and it is never too late to start believing. Belief on its own will not get them there, they need action. Action to spend time revising, action to attend revision sessions, action to put that extra work in. With that positive outlook and self believe along with hard work and action students will get the results they deserve.

We thank you in advance for all your support to motivate and help exam preparation. We know that whilst students are feeling the pressure, parents are experiencing this too! We look forward to seeing you on the 11th May for our Parents Exam Support session. In the meantime, look out for our social media posts and remember to use the exam and revision support section of our website for further information and advice.

Yours sincerely

C Crooks

Mrs C Crooks