

March 2019

Dear Parents/Care Givers,

I have every hope that you are looking forward to some holiday time now that term has come to an end and trust that your child(ren) will be able to find some time for rest and relaxation over the next few weeks. With that in mind, I felt it would be useful to clarify some thoughts on a Year 8 pupil's use of the Easter holidays, knowing that both the Scholarship and CE exams are not that far away!

The Scholarship examinations will be from the **7th – 9th May** and CE examinations will run from the **4th – 7th June**.

Your son or daughter may well need your help with knowing how much revision to do. The trial exams showed that some pupils did not put enough effort in and underperformed, while others were in danger of over-working and getting very stressed. Pupils need to return to school feeling rested, both mentally and physically, but also feeling confident about the forthcoming exams. Next term some lesson time will be put aside for active revision and honing exam technique. Half term is also a good opportunity for a significant amount of revision for the CE exams. Therefore, it is not our expectation that pupils should do hours of revision a day over the Easter holiday. The table below lets you know the revision expectations for each subject.

It may be a good idea to check what your son or daughter is actually revising – time can easily be spent just re-doing and colouring a revision timetable or texting a friend, rather than completing useful revision! Good revision should be active and involve thinking and doing, not just re-reading notes. Study aides such as post-it notes, revision cards, mind maps and coloured pens can be very helpful in helping children to write key facts and information and present it in a way useful to them and their learning.

Please note that revision material can also be found on the DCPS revision site. Parents can access this via the [Parent Portal](#) -> School Information -> Bookmarks and Links. The easiest way for pupils to access this is through via [My Dean Close](#) -> School Intranet -> DCPS Pages, using their school login details.
<https://parents.deanclose.org.uk> <https://www.deanclose.org.uk/my-dean-close/>

I hope that this clarifies the general expectation of the school regarding revision over the Easter holidays. Pupils will have more specific details and learning targets to aim for, as set out in the reports or in revision guides.

Kind regards,

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Academic Director

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Revision expectations	
English	Pupils taking CE have two separate revision documents, one for comprehension skills, and the other for all writing tasks. Alongside these there are examples of poetry comprehensions for them to look through. Finally, they've been encouraged to reread one of the course novels we have studied. Scholars have received a comprehensive revision booklet covering the three main elements: poetry analysis, The Merchant of Venice and opinion pieces.
Mathematics	Pupils taking CE have two papers to complete, along with marking guidance. They also have the coloured booklets to keep topics ticking over to start well next term, rather than taking time to get going again. Scholarship pupils have a pack of papers with tips and answers as well as the course booklets to revise and practise specific topics. Pupils should learn the material on the Tips sheet and make a note of any question or topic that causes particular difficulty so that help can be given after the holidays.
Science	Pupils have been given a revision booklet that outlines the key facts for each topic and thorough learning of these key facts is important. They also have a red CGP revision book. If all key concepts are in place and learnt by the start of next term then these can be applied when answering exam questions. The scholarship paper requires pupils to have a deeper understanding of the CE knowledge so they should be using the same revision guides. These pupils must also be able to make use of previously unseen scientific information and analyse it. They have practice papers to complete.
French	Pupils need to access and read through the presentation named Year 8 MFL instructions located in the Trinity Yr8 French section of the school intranet. They will find step by step guidance as to what to revise and where to find the revision material. In the section named Year 8 French revision material, pupils will find additional work to prepare for the role-play as part of the speaking examination.
Spanish	Pupils need to access and read through the presentation named Year 8 MFL instructions located in the Trinity Yr8 Spanish section of the school intranet. They will find step by step guidance as to what to revise and where to find the revision material. In the section named Year 8 Spanish revision material, pupils will find additional work to prepare for the role-play as part of the speaking examination.
Latin	Pupils in 8E and 8L have stuck a revision sheet in their prep diaries. They need their key sheets and textbook.
RS	Pupils have been given revision folders for the course. From this they will choose their topics. These need to be read through carefully, highlighting key names and events. Pupils also have a list of interesting discussion starters just right for long car journeys or meal time conversations. Keeping up with current affairs is also useful.
Geography	All pupils have been issued with a revision guide, a global location map book and a set of maps to work from. They should focus upon Ordnance Survey map-work and two topic areas for example: tectonic processes and weather and climate. Pupils should choose the ones they find the hardest and start with them.
History	Pupils should use their booklets on Henry VIII and the Causes of the English Civil War. They must ensure they are clear in their own mind about how well Henry lived up to his public image and why the Civil War started. They should also spend time learning the key events: knowing them will give easy marks in the exam and improve their essay writing. Scholars have been given a specific revision guide.