



DEAN CLOSE
PREPARATORY SCHOOL
CHELTENHAM

Dean Close Preparatory School
Lansdown Road
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Gloucestershire
GL51 6QS

25th March 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of Year 8 pupils,

I 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. We are acutely aware of how hard this second lockdown has been for many and how much everyone deserves a break.

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, with Year 8 exams in mind. This will be the first set of exams for this year group since Year 6 and due to the disruption they have experienced, we will be running a set of internal exams, the results of which will be put together with teacher assessment and given to DCS. This will create some useful assessment for your children, along with opportunities for revision, while recognising that things need to be different this year.

The Year 8 examinations will run from 7th – 11th June.

Pupils need to return to school feeling rested, both mentally and physically. Next term some lesson time will be put aside for active revision and honing exam technique. Half term is the main opportunity for a significant amount of revision for the exams.

With this, and the need for rest after a disrupted couple of terms in mind, it is not our expectation that pupils should do hours of revision each day over the Easter holidays. The table attached gives you some revision tips for each subject, but getting outside and resting are, at this time, more important. A little reading, some of the Maths papers, and going over the work from September onwards over the holiday in certain subjects will be enough. The tips below are useful not just for this holiday, but for the whole period up to the exams themselves, so please do not think that it all has to be done over this holiday.

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, though there will be opportunities to do this more systematically over the first few weeks of next term.

Much of the revision will be found in the Google Classroom for each subject and also revision material can also be found on the DCPS revision site. Pupils need to be logged into Google and then go to <https://sites.google.com/deanclose.org.uk/dcpsrevision/home>

This link is available via the intranet, which is itself available via the 'Staff and Pupil Portal' in the footer of the main Dean Close site.

Kind regards,

Mr Kevin Donnelly
Director of Studies



Revision Ideas

English	At this time, the best revision pupils can do is to prioritise their reading. Revision booklets will be given out at the start of the Trinity Term.
Mathematics	Pupils have two papers to complete, along with marking guidance. They also have access to Collins Connect and can use their online textbook and exercises to consolidate topics.
Science	Pupils already have the revision document in the Google Classroom as well as links to a revision site. The revision guide covers material studied in Year 6, Year 7 and Year 8. The summer exam will prioritise the knowledge of Year 8 material but working scientifically questions will be based on Year 6 and Year 7 topics so pupils should ensure that they have a broad understanding of the Year 6 / Year 7 topics. Pupils will use practice papers when they return.
French	Year 8 students need to revisit lessons taught since September in French and Spanish. They are available on Google Classroom. They can also access a variety of revision materials on Kerboodle (Allez 1 course in French / Claro 1 in Spanish). In addition they need to use their exercise book.
Spanish	Year 8 students need to revisit lessons taught since September in French and Spanish. They are available on Google Classroom. They can also access a variety of revision materials on Kerboodle (Allez 1 course in French / Claro 1 in Spanish). In addition they need to use their exercise book.
Latin	8 Set 1: Please revise Vocabulary 1-3 and grammatical terminology flashcards using Quizlet. The link is on Google Classroom. 8 Set 2: Please revise CLC Stage 1-5 vocabulary flashcards using Quizlet. The link is on GC. There is also a link to the CLC website for you to practise grammar topics. Instructions are on GC.
RS	The RS revision booklet is on the DCPS revision site (and in Google Classrooms) and pupils will be given their own printed copy after the Easter holidays. There is also a list of interesting discussions for car journeys or meal-time discussions. Reading newspapers and keeping up with current affairs would also be useful.
Geography	Pupils have the revision booklets given for the Lent Term tests, which are useful to read through, and it would be helpful to familiarise themselves with the vocabulary for weather and climate. The exam will cover only Year 8 material. There is no need to revise at length this holiday.
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.