

Dear Parents/carers

For year 11, this term has been dominated by Trial Exam results and the introduction of our Eat the Elephant revision strategy. Students responded very well to receiving their Trial Exam results and the feedback which was provided to them both in lessons and at our year 11 Parents' Evening. They have also expressed great appreciation for the resources collated as part of our Eat the Elephant timetable, and it was great to see many of you supporting your child at our revision evening last month. We hope that this clarified topics that students need to be working on and helped with providing you with strategies, as parents, to continue to support your son or daughter over these final few weeks.

I am fully appreciative that students are likely to be feeling a lot of pressure at the moment, which may be overwhelming them. Please do encourage them to take some time for themselves and plan things that they can look forward to in order to break up the upcoming exam season: it is extremely important that they do not neglect themselves, family or friends at this time. I am sure that, as well as exams, many will be both excited and nervous about their future following the completion of the exams and this will be weighing on them, too. As always, my door is always open to discuss concerns students may have, as is any of the other pastoral members of staff's door.

When it comes to exam season, there will always be a space available in school for students to use to revise, should they wish. For some students, this may also be beneficial with maintaining a structure to their day – so something to consider for May and June.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you all of our Passport to Prom initiative, introduced at our revision evening. Students do need to attend ten independent study sessions in order to attend and be punctual to school. It has been fantastic to see some excellent engagement with sessions so far. Students can also complete independent study at home and show their teachers what work has been completed in order to earn these achievement points. I know that many have been very organised with creating their own revision timetables.

Last week, I was delighted to welcome back four of our year 12 students who had previously attended Olney to answer questions about their 6<sup>th</sup> Form experience at our Newport Pagnell campus. Students were engaged and interested, and the feedback from year 12 seemed to provide them with a lot of reassurance, as well as instilling further excitement in them. This followed some invaluable advice from our year 12 student Hannah Richards, who delivered a recent assembly on how to cope with exams and the pressure they may bring. I am sure hearing this from a student's perspective was extremely useful – messages from peers always tend to be more effective!

Across this term, students have also benefitted from having one-to-one talks with senior members of staff regarding their post-16 pathways. Whilst 6<sup>th</sup> Form may not be for all of them, they have all had the opportunity to voice concerns they may have about their future choices, seek advice and talk over their decisions and options. I have very much enjoyed speaking to the students I was allocated and learning about the wide variety of career paths our young people are seeking to engage with and follow. There are sure to be many bright futures ahead!

I hope that the Easter break is productive and restful in equal measure.

Best wishes,



Miss Erica Sereno

Head of Year 11, Olney Campus