



# Nether Stowe School

Be Respectful. Be Ambitious. Be Resilient.

13 January 2025

Dear Parents and carers,

We are writing to you today to outline our plans for supporting Year 11 in preparation for their examinations. We are in the process of implementing a series of measures aimed at ensuring students are supported to succeed in the upcoming summer exams.

## 1) Change to tutor time

From **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> of January** students will be assigned into a morning intervention group. We will be running two mathematics groups, one English group and one science group. Students have been moved into these groups based on the data from their assessments and will remain in the groups for a minimum of 5 weeks at which point it will be reviewed.

Students will begin the day lined up with the rest of the school in their existing tutor groups where the register will be taken. Year 11 students will then be dismissed to attend their revision session.

The focus of the morning sessions will be to boost confidence around some core areas of knowledge and understanding that were identified during the most recent assessment series. In addition to the reteaching of this core knowledge students will have the opportunity to complete some practice exam questions. On the Friday there will then be a short test to re-test the knowledge that has been revisited that week. The aim of this short test will be to demonstrate to and convince the Year 11 students that with effort and focussed revision they can re-learn/revise areas of knowledge that they once struggled with.

We ask that you speak to your son/daughter each Friday to ask how they got on in the mini-assessment and if it boosted their confidence.

## 2) After School Revision

Many subjects have been running some form of after school sessions for some time. However, we have collated the list below to help you encourage your son/daughter to go to the sessions. You will see from the table below that most of the sessions are open to everyone to attend although some students will be receiving invites to selected sessions that are bespoke in targeting their areas of underperformance. It must be emphasised that behaviour in these sessions must be exemplary. Unlike during the normal school day chances and warnings will not be given - if there is any poor behaviour students will simply be asked to leave.

A table of when sessions will run can be found here: <https://netherstowe.staffs.sch.uk/year-11-revision-sessions/>

Please speak to your son/daughter about attending as many of these sessions as possible. We will be incentivising attendance to these sessions through the award of prouder way passes.

**Acting Headteacher: Mrs M George**

[www.netherstowe.com](http://www.netherstowe.com)

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### 3) Use of homework (also known as KRP – Knowledge Retrieval Practice)

Work will continue to be set for students to complete at home. All homework will give students the opportunity to practice recalling (remembering) key information. The independent recall of knowledge is vital for success in examinations and when a student develops fluency in the recall of knowledge it dramatically increases the chances of success in examinations.

We ask that you speak to your son/daughter about their homework and make sure that it is completed. If you feel they need more work, please contact their class teacher.

### 4) Development of a revision timetable or use of the 'Nether Stowe Default Revision Timetable'.

Students should already have begun the process of revising for their summer exams. Daily revision of subject knowledge from now until their exams will dramatically increase their chances of success. Students should ideally be completing at least an hour a day of independent revision at home now and this should gradually increase as they get closer to their examination.

By beginning revision in January there are several benefits. Starting revision early for examinations is beneficial because it allows more time to understand and retain the material, reducing stress and anxiety closer to the exam date. It also enables you to identify and address any knowledge gaps, practice retrieval of information over time, and improve overall subject mastery.

We will be talking to the students about the construction of the revision timetable however we know that for some students this will be a challenge for them to complete it independently. For this reason, we have developed the 'Nether Stowe Default Revision Timetable' which will be shared with students this coming week. We have posted a copy of the timetable on our website here:

<https://netherstowe.staffs.sch.uk/nether-stowe-default-revision-programme/>

Please speak to your son/daughter about their own revision timetable. If they do not have one in place, please use the default one to ensure that they begin the process of independent revision at home.

### 5) Resources needed for revision

On the Default Revision programme area of the website we have also posted a list of the recommended revision materials that students need in each area: <https://netherstowe.staffs.sch.uk/2025/01/12/nether-stowe-default-revision-programme/>

Teachers have, of course, posted revision materials on student iPads however we know that many learners may still prefer to have paper copies and different resources.

If your son/daughter is in receipt of free school meals and you would like support in purchasing revision materials, please contact the school. Please note, funding is limited but we will do everything we can to offer of resources as required.

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## 6) Year 11 Revision Evening

On **Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup> of January** we will be running a Year 11 revision evening where we will be running workshop in how to revise effectively. This will mirror the sessions that the students have in school and will be focussed on dispelling myths on how to revise and offering parents concrete advice on how to ensure that their son/daughter is revising effectively.

We ask you to put this in your diary and join us in the main school hall from 5.00pm to 5.45pm for this session.

### What can you do to support your son/daughter:

- 1) Ensure 100% attendance. 100% attendance ensures that they do not miss out on vital knowledge that they might be examined on. Our staff will always provide the work for students to complete if a lesson is missed but nothing can replace being in lesson and learning directly from their teacher.
- 2) Ensure that your son/daughter arrives on time, with a charged iPad and full equipment.
- 3) Please speak to your son/daughter about attending as many of these sessions as possible. We will be incentivising attendance to these sessions through the award of a prouder way passes.
- 4) We ask that you speak to your son/daughter about their homework and make sure that it is completed. If you feel they need more work, please contact their class teacher.
- 5) Please speak to your son/daughter about their own revision timetable. If they do not have one in place, please use the default one to ensure that they begin the process of independent revision at home.
- 6) Make sure that they have the resources they need and provide them with a quiet place to revise. If your son/daughter is in receipt of free school meals and you would like support in purchasing revision materials, please contact the school.
- 7) Come to our revision evening as advertised above.

Yours sincerely,

The Senior Leadership Team

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