

JJW/HistorySummer17/LH
July 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian

History Summer Revision and Prep work

Year 10 mock exam feedback

The end of Year 10 History mock was a challenging exam paper requiring students to utilise all of the Assessment Objectives. The sources paper on Germany is the most difficult in terms of skills that the students face at GCSE.

However, it was clear that, in many cases, it was not only the skills that the students were lacking; it was the knowledge. There is an increased amount of content to learn, rising by 30% compared to the old GCSE. This is a significant increase, and one which the students will have to negotiate in order to achieve their target grades.

Students will continue to work on their exam technique and knowledge throughout Year 11 in the classroom, and we will also be offering the opportunity to attend exam technique and knowledge sessions in September and October in the run up to their November mocks, in order to support students who feel they would benefit from developing these areas. These will be optional for some students and mandatory for others.

In order to support student's exam progress further, we will also be **issuing an Edexcel revision guide pack to all GCSE History students in September**. In this pack there will be a revision guide, a few work booklets and a highlighter. Home learning tasks will be set from this pack at least once a fortnight. **These packs will cost £5** and will be issued by their class teacher in the first few weeks back after summer. **Parent Pay will be open to buy these from 9.00 am on Monday 4 September for 2 weeks**. Please pay by 22 September. If you have any difficulty accessing your ParentPay account, please contact the Finance Department on 01480 223336/37.

If your son/daughter is eligible for Pupil Premium funding, you may be able to access financial support for this purchase. Pupil Premium funding is available for students who have been eligible for free school meals in the last 6 years, are looked after or have parents in the armed forces. Further advice on eligibility for Pupil Premium funding is available on our website. If you are not eligible for Pupil Premium but are currently experiencing financial hardship, the Academy may be able to support you. If you wish to apply for Pupil Premium or discuss current financial hardship, please write to or email Mrs F Smith (fsmith@longsands.cambs.sch.uk). If you are applying for financial support, please pay a £5 deposit and then contact Mrs Smith immediately to discuss the remaining payment.

Summer Consolidatory and Prep Work

In order to learn the vast amount of material that needs to be known in detail for the exam, students need regular practice. Revising before a mock and before the final exam is not enough for knowledge to be retained in long-term memory. As a result, students must look regularly at their notes/facts. To aid this, the department has produced **knowledge organisers**. These contain all of the main facts and dates that are needed for the course. Over the summer we are asking your son/daughter to learn the main facts/dates for their Cold War studies. This can be done by covering, testing and revealing, making mind-maps, creating revision flash cards, writing out questions and answers etc. They will receive other knowledge organisers in the Autumn term.

In addition we are asking students to create a **family tree of the Tudors** and find out **10 facts about Queen Elizabeth 1** in order to prepare them for their new unit which they will begin in September.

Thank you in advance for your support with the History GCSE and your son/daughter's knowledge acquisition. Should you have any comments or questions, please do not hesitate to email me at the address listed below.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Wayman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right. The signature is written over a light grey rectangular background.

Mr J Wayman
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