

St Aidan's & St John Fisher Associated Sixth Form

Weekly Notices Week (2) commencing 8 April 2024

Assembly

Year 12 – Tuesday 9 April – TEAMS – Exam Protocol: Mrs Orton

Year 13 – Thursday 11 April – TEAMS – Exam Protocol: Mrs Orton

Living Well

Students need to return to the teacher they had at the start of the year; the room is on your timetable. For Mrs Gee's groups this means staying in the Chapel. For the groups who had Mrs Dover in the main hall you now have Mr Hainsworth, still in the main hall.

Year 12 Mock Exams

Year 12 mock exams take place between **16 April and 3 May**. There is no study leave for mock exams. Students will be told the format of the paper and what the latest any content on the paper will cover.

Important instructions for Year 12 students re internal exams – April - May 2024

- Students are required to have their school ID lanyards when they sit their internal exams, so the invigilators are able to identify them. If you have lost or mislaid your photo ID you will need to order a replacement card prior to the start of your exams.
- Exams will start promptly at 9.00 am and 1.30 pm each day so students need to ensure they are outside the Exam Hall/Room at least 15 mins prior to the exam start times.
- It is very important that students sit in the seat allocated to them on the seating list, so we are not looking for the wrong absent students and contacting the wrong parents.
- Students should be appropriately dressed (no crop tops or vest t-shirts) no coats to be worn.
- The Porta cabin Room 1 has been allocated for Sixth Form as the room for bags & coats for students with exams in CGH.
- Please do not bring your mobile phone or wristwatch into the Exam Hall.
- Students will also need to bring their own exam equipment, e.g. black pen, pencil, ruler, calculator (if applicable for subject) etc for their exams, in a clear pencil case or plastic bag.
- Exam seating lists will be displayed outside CGH and in the Sixth Form café at SA and in Collins Entrance at SJF the day before the exam for students to check where they need to be and their seat number.
- All exams will be held at St Aidan's in either CGH, the Hatcher Room, the Bede IT Study Room, or the Careers small rooms (PODs) – all of which are in Bede House. The only exceptions are - Music in Mu3 and Music Tech in Mu1 (Music Dept at SA).
- If anyone has any concerns or queries they should contact Mrs Humphrey, Exams Officer by email w.humphrey@staidans.co.uk or telephone 01423 818518.

Careers Evening Reminder

Tickets are being reserved fast for our annual Careers Evening which is being held in Constance Green Hall at St. Aidan's on **Tuesday 9 April**. We look forward to welcoming a broad range of over 50 education, training, and employment providers who will be in attendance to talk to you about different study and career opportunities in their field.

Numbers are restricted for the event in line with health and safety requirements and access will be by ticket only, using this link <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/2024-careers-evening-tickets-852193251957>. Please select only one time slot and ensure that your visit starts and ends within this window.

Careers Evening Helpers

We are asking for student volunteers to help on **Tuesday 9 April** for our annual Careers Evening. We particularly need help during two periods:

- straight after school until **4.30pm** to help exhibitors as they arrive.
- between 5.30-6pm to help provide exhibitors them with refreshments during their half hour break.

If you would like to get involved, please email careersstaff@staidans.co.uk with details of when you are available or call up to the Careers Department. Many thanks.

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STEP Paper

Registration for Step Paper 2 and Paper 3 opened on **1 March 2024** and costs £93 per paper. Dates for the exams are **5 June** (STEP 2) and **24 June** (STEP 3) both starting at 9.00 am (3-hour papers). Please let Mrs Humphrey, Exams Officer, know if you wish to enter for either or both of these exams.

Summer 2024 student individual exam timetables – Exam Clashes

Students with exam clashes will have received an individual exam clash letter detailing how their clash will be resolved and they should return the tear off slip at the bottom of their letter or email Mrs Humphrey, Exams Officer, to acknowledge receipt of this, as soon as possible.

Exam Certificates

There are still certificates to collect in the Sixth Form Office including GCSE English/GCSE Maths (June 23 and November 23 series). **Please collect as soon as possible.**

BTEC/Camb Tech unit exam re-sits

Any students who wish to re-sit a written unit exam this Summer will need to complete a re-sit form (on school website under Sixth Form/Sixth Form exam information) and return this to Mrs Humphrey in the Sixth Form Office by **Friday 22 March** with the appropriate fee (BTEC - £40.94 per unit, Camb Tech - £42.75 per unit). Exam Boards will charge penalty fees after this date for any late entries.

Year 13 Leaver's Assembly and Attendance from Monday 20 May

Y13 will continue in lessons as normal until **Friday 17 May**. On that day students will be expected in lessons Periods 1 and 2. There will be a Leavers Assembly at both sites P3, students will not be in lessons in the afternoon. Lessons should continue until **Friday 7 June** but, due to exams, attendance from students will not be insisted upon and no absence emails will be sent.

Year 13 – access to your school email address after September 2024

It is school policy school that student email addresses and all linked files/Teams accounts are deleted at the end of September after a student has left school. It will not be possible after you have left to access any of the work on your school account, once it has been deleted. **Please save anything that you may need in the future to your personal account so you do not lose it.**

Year 13 Sociologists

Thank you to everyone who attended our revision sessions over the last 7 weeks. Going forwards after Easter I will be available 12:30-1:30pm for anyone who wants to come along for general help regarding paper 1 up **until Monday May 20** (the Paper 1 exam day). Come and find me in the RS office in the chapel block. Mrs Wraight.

Year 12 Creative Writing Trip

Calling all budding writers! A place has unexpectedly become available on the Year 12 Creative Writing trip to beautiful Wales in July. If you would like to develop your writing skills under the tuition of published authors, staying in comfortable accommodation and chilling out by the sea, contact Mrs Parris for more details (a.parris@staidans.co.uk). This trip is open to any student who would like to join us - you don't need to be studying English A-Level (we've had mathematicians and physicists in the past). All that is required is a desire to join in.

Debating Club

Debating Club is a vibrant, lively and enjoyable place to develop invaluable public speaking skills. These skills will enhance university applications and employment potential. No previous experience is required. All welcome. Bring a sandwich to **Hu1 from 12:30 every Monday**.

Morning Prayer

There will be a short informal service of Morning Prayer in the Chapel on **Wednesday 10 April** for any members of Years 12 and 13 who would like to come along. Please register in the Chapel instead of going to your form room that day and the service will finish in good time for lesson one.

Sixth Form Cricket

If you are interested in playing in the 1st XI cricket team this year against the MCC on **Monday 22 April** please contact Mr Strover. J.strover@staidans.co.uk

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Snus

Students found in possession of or taking snus will be treated the same as any student found smoking or vaping. In the first instance this will result in exclusion for a day.

Lunchtime – St Winifred's

Please can students not gather in the middle of the road near Audsley's or the Co-op. This is dangerous both for students and local residents.

Revision advice

Continuing our revision tips. This advice is the result of research about effective learning methods: we hope that you find it useful and that it will help you to be more effective in your revision than reading through your notes or highlighting, which are popular but less successful approaches.

This week: **Concrete Example**

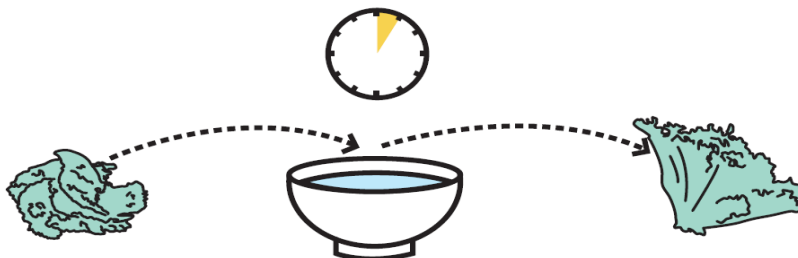
Learning abstract concepts or 'big ideas' is all well and good but often we struggle to relate them to other things. By using concrete examples, you will be able to create a much stronger representation of that concept and be able to use it in a range of situations.

So you have learned lots of material, you have asked important questions about that material and elaborated on its wider implications but what do you do next? Does this always transfer into exam results? Not always. Having lots of information and ideas swirling around your head doesn't always mean you can get it down in an exam in a way that will succeed.

One of the most effective things you can do is to get concrete examples of abstract ideas you have learned in class. For example,

Osmosis

Water moves from where there is high water potential (a lot of free water and a low concentration of solute) to an area of low water potential (little free water and a high concentration of a solute).



Another useful way to use concrete examples is to study the best possible example of the thing you are trying to do, such as writing an essay.

It's very difficult to be excellent if you don't know what excellence looks like.

By evaluating an A or A* essay and taking it apart or 'reverse engineering it' you will begin to learn how to put together all the information you have learned with the bigger concepts and ideas that underpin it. Ask yourself:

1. **How have they structured the essay?**
2. **What particular phrases have they used to discuss their ideas?**
3. **What specific examples have they used as evidence to support their arguments**

Concrete Examples: linking abstract concepts with concrete examples helps you form real-world examples of success.

Thank you.