

This Week

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From the Principal:

For students in Year 11, the next few months are crucial as they prepare for their GCSE exams. Year 11 GCSE exams begin in just 45 school days! These exams are the first key stepping stones to further education and a career.

To help to give Year 11 a kick start for the final pre-exam push, many Year 11 students will be participating in an overnight outdoor pursuits residential at Kingswood in Doncaster. The focus of the trip is on facing challenges and overcoming them. We want our students to believe that they are able to achieve. We know that they can!

Year 11 students not going on the trip will end the half term with an inspiring revision skills session. All Year 11 students will be presented with a revision kit filled with all the essential tools that they need to really get stuck into their half term revision programmes. This is in addition to the revision timetable calendar and study skills advice booklet that they received two weeks ago.

Alison Merrills

SPOTLIGHT ON YEAR 11

Top 10 Revision Tips for Students:

You can support your daughter by helping her to follow these tips.

- Do not revise for more than one hour without taking a 5-10 minute break. Have a glass of water or something similar to drink.
- Stay focused. Do not waste time on social networks and mobile phones.
- Revise one or two subjects in the evenings after College.
- Revise specific topics in each subject, not everything at once.
- Tackle the most difficult topics first.
- Cover each subject several times and revisit each one near to the exams.
- Turn off the TV, radio or any loud music. Quiet background music may help some students.
- Reading is not enough. Making brief notes in either words or pictures will help.
- Answer questions from past papers, sometimes under exam conditions, to test learning.
- Do not leave revision to the last minute.

What can parents do to help?

Parents can help their daughter to start preparing for her GCSE exams by following the advice below.

Over the next few weeks:

- Make sure that your daughter attends College every day and on time.
- Make sure that she is keeping up with homework.
- Be aware that students need to get at least a grade C in Maths and English or they will have to continue studying these subjects.
- Encourage your daughter to begin revising now.
- Help your daughter to make a revision timetable which includes all her subjects.
- Have the revision timetable displayed in her room and ensure that she sticks to the plan.
- Ask to see your daughter's revision notes and check that they are complete.
- Make sure that revision is spread out evenly so that your daughter is not planning to do too much at once.
- Ask her to explain something to you she has just revised.
- Encourage your daughter to ask for help at College on any work that she does not understand.
- Encourage your daughter to attend revision sessions offered at College.
- Make sure that she has all the books she needs to hand so she does not waste time.
- You can buy revision guides to help with study. Make sure that your daughter knows which exam board and syllabus have been followed.
- Encourage the use of different memory aids e.g. writing notes on cards or putting post-it notes around the house with key facts.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'Life is like a book, each day has a new page, with adventures to tell, lessons to learn and tales on good deed to remember.'

COLLEGE CALENDAR

Term dates for 2014-2015 are available on the College website:
www.sjncc.leicester.sch.uk

13 February	College closes for Half Term
23 February	College Re-opens
27 February	Year 9 "What's My Line" Event

ATTENDANCE Who did well last week?

	Year to date	%	w/e 06/02/2015	%
Year 7	7.8	97.5	7.6	98.4
	7.2	97.4	7.1	98.1
	7.3	96.7	7.5	98.0
Year 8	8.1	95.7	8.9	97.2
	8.4 & 8.7	95.2	8.7	96.7
	8.5	95.0	8.8	96.5
Year 9	9.6	96.2	9.5	98.5
	9.2	95.9	9.1 & 9.7	97.6
	9.5	95.6	9.8	95.6
Year 10	10.7	96.5	10.7	98.1
	10.9	94.9	10.1	96.5
	10.5	94.8	10.5	95.6
Year 11	11.5	97.4	11.5	96.5
	11.3	96.0	11.1	95.4
	11.7	95.9	11.4	94.8
Overall College attendance		94.6		93.9

THIS WEEK'S GREAT GRADE GRABBER!

Advice for **Computing / ICT** exams.

1. Think carefully about the context of questions. You will often know the general answer but you may need to put it into context. For example, if you are asked about *input devices associated with a tablet computer*, you would look to include uses of a microphone, camera and touchscreen rather than a mouse.
2. Always try to use technical language where you can.
3. If you are asked to produce a diagram, always label it clearly and annotate it.
4. It's worth learning some of the common abbreviations. For example, LAN is Local Area Network and HTML is HyperText Markup Language.
5. There will be a question about data types. The most common mistake is when there is a list of numbers; people select integer as a data type whether there is any maths to do on them or not. For example, someone's ID number (perhaps 00044568) would not be an integer, but would be text or string.
6. There is no essay question. Even if a question has six marks and quality of English is assessed, you are not expected to write an introduction or conclusion unless it adds new points that you haven't already made. Examiners are assessing your technical writing skills rather than your essay writing skills.

The ICT Team

AUTUMN PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Congratulations to Shreya Sanjiva in 9.7 on winning the College's Autumn Photography competition. Shreya's photograph captured a robin sitting on a post on a bright autumn morning last year.

We had over 60 entries to the competition and the standard was very high. Thank you to all of our students who submitted photographs and we look forward to running a new competition in the spring.

Mr Herickx, Digital Arts Manager



The Young Americans

There's still time

- An unforgettable weekend
- Be part of life quoting experiences

Students' views:

"Best thing I ever did."

"It was amazing!"

"Loved spending the weekend with the Young Americans."



Collect your forms from Expressive Arts or Student reception.

Mrs Thornber, Team Leader Expressive Arts

VISIT FROM SIR RICHARD JOLLY

Last Wednesday, the Geography department was thrilled to host a visit from world renowned economist Sir Richard Jolly. Throughout his career, he has worked for various charities and for a decade was Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations. As part of the Speakers for Schools programme, Sir Richard offered to come and speak to our Key Stage 4 Geography students. Sir Richard had a tour of the college, lunch with invited Geography students and gave a talk to approximately 200 students in the Main Hall.

Chenesai Chirombe (11.6) has written the following review of the visit: 'Sir Richard Jolly is a member of the United Nations and is a specialist in human development. He talked to us about how an economy develops and the workings of the United Nations. I found Sir Richard's talk very inspirational as it gave me a larger insight into how the global economy works and how different countries work together. It was interesting to hear about how other factors such as literacy rates and life expectancy are important measures of development. His presentation has completely changed my outlook on the way governments work and I am now looking at a future career in the United Nations.'

Miss White, Geography Team

PERFORMING SHAKESPEARE

'Last Wednesday, 7B2 participated in a workshop with Alison Bomber, a voice coach from the RSC Theatre. She came to SJNCC to improve our confidence whilst performing Shakespeare's play Henry VI, Part iii. We did many activities to help us understand the meaning of the speech. One activity included tensing our stomachs to emphasise the word "DEAD". During the two hours, our class learnt so much. We feel privileged to have been a part of the workshop and are very thankful to Alison for coming in.'

Anisha Sheridan and Daniella Page, 7.7

'When the voice coach came in, everyone was raring to go. For 2 hours, Alison poured out her enthusiasm, which made all of us feel the vibe. We did a lot of voice exercises and experienced what life would be like as an actor preparing for a performance. This was a great experience and we all had a great time.'

Mia Smith and Anya Daya, 7.6

Miss Premchand, English Team

Study Support Programme: Week Beginning 23/2/15

	Subject	Topic	Room	Subject	Topic	Room
	Lunch 1.10 – 1.55 (45 minutes)			3.05 – 4.05 (1 hour)		
Monday	Business Studies	Sole proprietors, partnerships, private and public limited companies	W14	Science	Chemistry	L10
	Physical Education	Unit 1 - Development of skills, techniques and motivation	W10			
	Food Textiles	Coursework completion				
	Biology	Coursework completion	L13			
	Health and Social Care					
Tuesday	Geography	London Olympics site GREENWICH MILLENNIUM VILLAGE	W7 & W8	Mathematics	GCSE Exam Topics	
	History	Unit 1A: Medicine and Treatment	W3, W4, W6			
	Leisure and Tourism	Coursework catch-up.				
	Child Development		D9			
	Sociology					
Wednesday	French Spanish	Appointments to be booked with teachers		Dance Drama		Dance Studio Drama Studio
Thursday	Religious Studies			English	Reading: Tackling the Comparison Question	M14
	ICT / Computing					
Friday	PE activities	See Ms. Hunt for Details	Main Hall			