



18 June 2026

Dear Parent / Guardian

I am writing to inform you of a matter that has recently come to our attention concerning a number of Year 10 students.

During routine monitoring and discussions with students, we have discovered that a significant number of them (specifically in Science and Economics) have accessed secure examination materials, including past papers and mark schemes, via the internet and social media platforms such as TikTok. These materials are not intended for public use in this way and accessing them undermines the purpose of assessment.

As a result, we are unable to have full confidence in the accuracy of some students' current assessment outcomes and progress. While we recognise that many students are working hard, the use of such materials makes it difficult to determine what they genuinely know and can independently achieve.

In conversations with students, many have shared that they feel considerable pressure to achieve strong grades to secure places in post-16 sixth forms and colleges. We understand these pressures and want to reassure you that we are here to support students through this important stage of their education.

However, it is important to stress that using mark schemes or memorising answers from exam papers does not support long-term success. This approach often leads to students learning how to answer a specific question rather than developing the deeper understanding and knowledge required for GCSE examinations. Ultimately, this will limit their ability to apply knowledge in unfamiliar contexts, which is essential for success in final exams. In turn, this could put at risk their chances of achieving the grades needed for their desired sixth form or college pathways.



We would like to encourage all students to adopt more effective and sustainable revision strategies. Some examples of useful approaches include:

- Active recall: testing themselves regularly without notes (e.g. using flashcards or self-quizzing)
- Spaced practice: revisiting topics over time rather than cramming
- Practice questions: completing exam-style questions, from other sources such as subject exercise or revision books, independently before checking answers
- Retrieval practice: writing down everything they can remember about a topic from memory
- Teaching others: explaining concepts to a peer or family member to reinforce understanding

We will continue to support students in school by modelling and encouraging these effective revision techniques, and we would greatly appreciate your support in reinforcing these messages at home.

If you have any concerns or would like further guidance on how best to support your child with revision, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Samantha Redrup (Mrs)
Deputy Headteacher

