

## Scarborough UTC News Flash

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022

### INTRODUCTION

Dear parent/carer

GCSE and A level examinations are now just two weeks away beginning on the 16<sup>th</sup> May and running until the 24<sup>th</sup> June. I trust by now your son/daughter has a well-planned and structured revision timetable which they are following rigidly.

A good revision timetable is a great way for your child to stay in control of their revision and so their nerves and anxiety regarding exams. One of the enemies of a revision timetable however is procrastination. Putting the revision off throws any good revision plan off track and fosters bad habits at a crucial time. Is your son/daughter revising regularly and following their revision timetable – they need to be!

I wanted to share some revision techniques that will really help to improve your child's grades.

**Active recall can raise exam marks by as much as 30%.**

When it comes to revision, there are many ways you can revise. But, research has shown that not all revision techniques are equal. In fact, some of those most used by students are quite ineffective.

**Re-reading** – Over 80% of students try to revise by just re-reading, either their own notes or from a textbook. But even if you do this several times, countless studies have proved that this method **does not help you to understand the topic or to embed the information into your long-term memory.**

However, if you use a strategy called **Retrieval Practice**, test results can rise by as much as 30%. This technique involves you having to **actively recall** what you have been taught or read, **increases understanding and drives the information into your long-term memory.**

#### How to do retrieval practice

1. Once you've read a topic through, **put your text book or notes to one side**, and then write down or sketch everything you can remember. But it is important to check notes afterwards for accuracy and important points you might have missed.
2. Do as many **practice tests** as you can. You can then think up your own questions, and perhaps ask a friend to do the same, and then trade them. Or use apps such a **BBC Bitesize, GCSE POD, Gojimo, S-Cool and Seneca Learning.**
3. Make **flashcards**. Write a cue or question on one side, and the answer on the other. When you can recall the answer easily, remove the card from the deck for a week or longer, and concentrate on the ones you find hard. They are a great way to self-test

and help identify weak spots. It is really easy, especially if you use an app such as **Quizlet** (free for students on all devices) or **Anki** (free on all devices except the iPhone). Just be sure to say or write down the answer **before** revealing it.

4. Implement **Spaced Practice** which involves reviewing a topic over a period of time. It is the opposite of cramming and much more effective. The idea behind Spaced Practice is that you should review material a day or so after the lesson, then a week or so later, then a month later. When you are trying to recall information that you have almost forgotten, your brain will have to work harder, and that strengthens the encoding of the information into your long-term memory.

*Productivity is never an accident. It is always the result of a commitment to excellence, intelligent planning, and focused effort.*

Paul J. Meyer

*Remember, it isn't the dreamers who have good lives - it's the doers. Remember also what I call the three Ps of success: passion, planning, and perseverance.*

Homer Hickam

Thank you for your support.

**Mr Kilgour**

**Principal**

### T&L@SUTC

Our teaching team have recently commenced working in subject based Professional Learning Teams as a part of their CPD (Continued Professional Development) sessions. Professional Learning Teams involve teachers working together to develop, trial, evaluate and refine a teaching strategy, this terms focus being a subject specific area of development identified by Directors of Subject. This gives subject teams a fabulous opportunity to build a cluster of Walkthru strategies that will truly have an impact in their subject area. This aspect of CPD within our teaching team is just one of the ways in which we can ensure that students attending Scarborough UTC have access to the highest quality learning experience.

### TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE

News from Systems control this week: we have come back with a bang from the Easter break, and it was great to see everyone having had a bit of a breather. For Year 11, I was really pleased we had such a strong turnout from Engineering students wanting to do everything they can to boost their chances of success. After a lot of extra sessions after school and during the breaks, we have really wanted to 'go large' with the opportunity to attain Technical Excellence. This may be for students in pursuit of being their best - wanting to excel, which we are very fortunate to have so many students who want to do just that, but also the fact that most of us, myself included have missed some time due to having COVID - and providing extra support can make a positive difference. I'd like to thank all the parents who have encouraged students to do their best and keep working - even though it is hard, and at times,

seems unfair because of the pandemic. There are a few short weeks before the engineering exams, so these last few sessions really count. Year 11 students need to know that every effort they make will have a positive impact on their progress in Systems Control - so please encourage them to keep going!

Year 10 students are now in the middle of their first Systems Control coursework project, and after circuit simulation using computer aided design, we are now at the stage where a successfully tested circuit diagram needs to be turned into a working piece of hardware - an actual printed circuit board (PCB). The first stage of this is to create an automatically routed board using CAD, something students have used software for before, but this circuit is a lot more complex. After understanding in detail how the circuit is designed as a PCB, students will next have the challenge of manually routing, or doing their own version step by step. The automatic version will support them in this, but the challenge is to create their own PCB. It is something that we take pride in that each Systems Control student at Scarborough UTC manufactures a PCB personal to them, and with their name on it - so although it is challenging, this is a part of the course with Year 10 that I really enjoy! Have a great bank holiday weekend!  
From Mr Brown.

## ASSESSMENT AND CURRICULUM

### Curriculum, Feedback and Assessment

#### Y10 & 12

Good routine revision practice is essential in Year 10 and 12. Students completed a number of assessments across statutory subjects and Engineering or Health Pathways. It is important that students pay due attention to coursework deadlines and revise regularly.

Individual student review of Y10 achievement has taken place and students will be invited to pastoral progress meetings to discuss progress and attainment to set targets. Revision plans for PPE's should be in place for the summer exam season.

Y10 and 12 Futures & Pie and Progress evening is on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022. Please check MCAS for updated targets, assessment data, behaviour data and attendance data. A letter detailing the event has been emailed and a paper copy given to students. It is important to return the catering information by Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Appointments are made with class teachers on MCAS parent portal.

#### Y11 & Y13

Assessment and achievement data analysis is providing the basis for identifying academic support and intervention schedules on the approach to the summer examinations. Directors have structured interventions each day and these are being used to ensure all students are supported fully.

Please use this opportunity to support progress at home and develop good revision routines.

The Easter Holiday revision schedule for interventions in Computer Science, Engineering and English were very well attended. There are now two school weeks until formal exams begin.

General exam schedules are posted on MCAS and individual schedule assigned the week commencing 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022.

**All Years:** All assessment information, Attendance, Professional values, behaviour and target information is published on the “My Child at school” app. This is a secure and personal portal that allows you to assess the progress of your child at any time. Invites for the portal have been issued. If there are any issues accessing the app, please report this to [enquiries@scarboroughutc.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@scarboroughutc.co.uk) for further assistance. Registering for the APP is vital as this is the primary method of regular communication to parents.

### **Behaviour and Safety**

It is important to continue the highest standards of business dress policy. Lanyards and ID cards are mandatory for safeguarding purposes, lost lanyards and cards can be replaced at reception. Please check and ensure that equipment, stationary and **scientific calculators** are in good working order.

Maintaining 100% attendance is important to ensure we can continue to support progress effectively. Students are supported through tutor time with attendance challenges. Attendance is a very important focus for all students to ensure we can support attainment throughout the Spring term. A hard-working environment is vital to ensure students feel safe and make continued progress.

Structures are in place to guarantee that all students gain best opportunity to meet high standards and are recognised for hard work in areas identified by **Professional Values and Employability Skills (PVES)**, these positive points are identified on your MCAS parental account. By tracking this information regularly, you will be able to identify areas of strength and development for your child.

<b>DATES FOR YOUR DIARY</b>	
Bank holiday:	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2022
Summer Half term:	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 3 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
Term ends:	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2022