



Achieving Excellence Together

GROBY COMMUNITY COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

SKIING IN THE USA

EXAM SPECIAL

PAGES 8 - 13

Helpful ideas
and tips for both
students and
parents/carers!



Over half term 41 students and 4 members of staff travelled to Stowe, Vermont on the annual ski trip which also including a stopover in New York. The trip had a slow start again this year with a cancelled flight due to weather conditions at JFK airport, however, American Airlines quickly put the group onto the next available flight resulting in a three hour delay in our journey. After a long day travelling, with an eight hour flight into JFK and five hour coach transfer to Stowe, we finally arrived at 2am.

The next five days were spent skiing at Stowe Mountain Ski Resort. The majority of the group had never skied or snowboarded before, including two members of staff. The first two days saw a steep learning curve and all beginners were off the nursery slope by the end of day three, with the majority of the group skiing more difficult blue and black diamond runs by the end of the

week. In the evening students got to experience a taste of American culture, by attending a High School Boys Varsity Ice Hockey game, cinema and bowling. After a great five days of skiing, the group set off for a dose of retail therapy at Woodbury Common Shopping Outlets and sightseeing. Our first stop being the Empire State building as the day changed from light to dark, then onto Times Square, where students were able to soak up the atmosphere of a bustling city. The group ended the evening with dinner at the Hard Rock Cafe. The following day involved a whistle stop tour of New York including the Statue of Liberty, Wall Street, Ground Zero and Fifth Avenue. A wonderful time was had by all and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff and students involved for making a memorable and successful trip.

Mrs Richardson – Ski Party Leader



**FEBRUARY 2015 SKI TRIP:
KILLINGTON, VERMONT, USA
£1,399 letters out soon!**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

MAKING THE GRADE

Welcome to our exam special newsletter, which is now in its third year. It is packed with helpful ideas and tips for students and parents/carers as they reach the final stages of the exam preparation period.

If you are a parent/carer of a Year 11 student you will hopefully have heard that both English and Maths have two major competitions running. Each student who completes a Maths mock paper every two weeks will be entered for our prize draw. Two iPads are to be given away just before half term as recognition of progress and hard work during this busy period. There will be lots of celebrations along the way including revealing how well the staff get on as many of them are also completing the mock papers!

Our extended support (lunchtime and after college classes), revision programme and late buses every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday will support students through the busy next few weeks. We will be publishing our Easter and May revision programme before the end of term so please encourage your sons and daughters to attend the extra sessions.

Developing our facilities for students continues to be a key part of our work. During the Easter break we will be installing a new computer suite to support our Post 16 students with their independent studies. The addition of this extra technology is a direct response to student voice last year, which highlighted the need for improved Post 16 facilities.

We have just received confirmation that our bid for an injection of funds from the EMI Foundation was successful which will enable us over the next few weeks to upgrade our guitars, drum kit and keyboards. We are extremely grateful to EMI for supporting our bid and I know that the improved facilities will be a great addition to our extra-curricular performances.

It is with great delight that I am able to announce the start of the Brookvale-Groby Band. This is the coming together of musicians across the campus led by our teachers Miss White and Ms Bridge. We look forward to their first joint cross campus public performance in the Summer term.

Mr Coles, Principal



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SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Our college feels it is of the utmost importance to have good systems for protecting children and safeguarding their welfare throughout all the activities which the college undertakes. This means that staff and volunteers must be alert to possible concerns about every student, and to report these in a proper fashion. The college has a safeguarding and child protection policy; parents may request a copy of this.

It is important for parents to be aware that:

- Staff and volunteers in the college have a duty to report concerns about a child, whether this means the child may be in need of additional support or help of some kind or whether it is thought that a child may have been abused or be at risk of abuse.
- There are four categories of abuse: physical, sexual, emotional, neglect.
- In some cases the college is obliged to refer children to children's social care staff, for children to be assessed for their needs or if an investigation into possible child abuse is required. In many cases there will already have been discussions between college staff and the parents of the child, and the situation and concerns will not be a surprise to the parents. However, parents may not be told that the college has referred their child to children's social care if it is thought that this might put the child at risk.
- Children's social care tries to carry out its enquiries in a sensitive fashion. It has to gather information and generally it can be open with parents about the steps being taken.
- If you think your child may have been abused you should contact the children's social care office. If you think the abuse may have happened in college, contact the Principal or the Designated Senior Person for Child Protection, who is Mrs Evans, Assistant Principal. If you think your child has been hurt, arrange to visit your doctor. Comfort and reassure your child.
- If college staff need to express concerns about a child or refer a child to children's social care, it is understood that this can cause distress or anger for the child's parents.

For parents' enquiries please contact:

Mrs Viv Evans, Assistant Principal



GERMANY TRIP



On Monday 24 February a group of 18 Year 10 & 12 German students set off for the second annual Germany trip. The students were really excited and the long journey went by in a flash. In one day we managed to use all the different methods of transport except bikes – which would have been hard with our cases! We finished the evening with a slap up pizza and got ready for our first real day in Deutschland. After the early morning shock to our systems and quick breakfast we headed to the Partner School – Wilhelm Raabe Schule. The partners were waiting for us and took no time in showing the students around the Harry Potter Hogwarts style school. Very different to Groby and with far more stairs! The afternoon was beautiful weather and we took a boat tour around Hamburg Harbour finishing the day with Schnitzel at the restaurant on the lake. Wednesday was jam packed with culture in Berlin, including a tour of the German parliament building, the Jewish Holocaust Memorial, Checkpoint Charlie Museum and a bit of shopping for presents (for ourselves!) On Thursday we jumped on yet another train, with our German partners, to travel to Wolfsburg and the VW Autostadt. We were lucky enough to have a tour of the assembly lines and then some time to see all the different models and brands including the high spec Bugattis and Lamborghinis. Not only were the students a credit to the school with their behaviour and attitude, but they seriously impressed me with their confidence and willingness to use the language whenever they could. I think most of them went home and probably spoke to their parents in German – a real success.

Miss Hammond, Subject Leader for German



GIVING SIXTH FORMERS A TASTE OF LEGAL LIFE



Teenagers got the chance to argue a case in "court" as they took part in the first round of the Leicestershire Schools and Colleges Mooting Competition. The contest sees teenagers from around the city and county, who are all members of De Montfort University's Law Club, compete for the title. Mooting involves arguing points of law as if in a court, and the students were asked to act out the role of barristers arguing both sides of a case in the Court of Appeal. Sheree People, Head of Leicester De Montfort Law School, said: "The mooting competition is a way to give students a taste of what a career in law entails. What we want is students who are really interested, committed and enthusiastic choosing to study law and Law Club gives them that opportunity."

Benjamin Letts; Year 13 student, represented Groby Community College in the first round of this Mooting Competition which took place on 27 January 2014. Benjamin has now successfully made it through to the second round, which will take place on 5 March 2014. **Good luck Benjamin!**

NEW CAMPUS BAND



It is with great delight that I am able to announce the start of the Brookvale-Groby Band. This is the coming together of musicians across the campus led by our teachers Miss White and Ms Bridge. We look forward to their first joint cross campus public performance in the Summer term.

Mr Coles, Principal.



FASHION SHOW



Thursday 27th March 2014

7.00pm - 10.00pm at Athena, Leicester

Are you looking for a night of inspiration and enjoyment?

Do you want to be amazed by young talent?

Join us on the evening of March 27th and celebrate the creative garments and choreographed routines that have been designed by the students from your college.

This event is fun, energetic and we can ensure that you will have a great time supporting your fellow classmates.

A special guest will also be joining on the night to help celebrate!

It really does promise to be a night not to be missed!

TICKETS ARE £6 AND AVAILABLE FROM: MRS BEESTON IN TEXTILES

LEBC, Ashcroft House, Ervington Court, Meridian Business Park, Leicester LE19 1WL Tel: 0116 240 7000 Fax: 0116 240 7000

Sponsored by:



YOUNG ENTERPRISE SUCCESS

Congratulations to all the members of Groby Community College's
Year 12 Young Enterprise Team

'Eunoia'

on winning the award for the 'Best Trade Stand Performance' at the Young Enterprise Trade Fair held at Leicester Highcross on Sunday 9 March.

Eunoia produce and sell a number of different products made from old vinyl records. At the trade fair they competed for customers against 17 other Young Enterprise Companies from across Leicestershire. Business was brisk and the team exceeded their sales target well before close of business.

Preparations by the team are already underway for the next stage of the Young Enterprise Company Programme Competition which takes place at Loughborough University on Monday 31 March when they hope to achieve further success.

Mr Hannaford - Link Teacher for Eunoia

"I would like to say a greatly deserved well done to all members of Eunoia for their commitment, hard work and reliability. Together we have achieved success in the early stages of the Young Enterprise competition and I am very proud of everyone's achievement. Hopefully we will have continued success over the coming months." **Joe Boden - Managing Director for Eunoia**

Pictured right is Joe Boden, being presented with the 'Best Trade Stand Performance' winning award!



HEARTSAFE PROJECT



On Friday the 28 February Cameron Oldershaw (Cj) and I (Lucy Armstrong) went to the Leicester Tigers ground to attend the launch for Leicestershire's Heartsafe project. This project is promoting the importance of CPR/Resuscitation training in schools. Each school in Leicestershire has been given a defibrillator/AED through the project funded by the 2 main charities supporting this project: Dr Skehan's East Midlands Pacemaker Fund and the Joe Humphries Memorial Trust. Unfortunately Joe died whilst out running near his home in Rothley in October 2012; this was due to an undiagnosed heart problem.

In the morning we listened to a presentation about the project and were told a few stories about what some of the cardiac arrest survivors had been through. I thought this was very interesting and it demonstrated that CPR is important and it can save lives. As one woman did CPR on a man she found unconscious for around 20 minutes and the man is now back to work as a GP with no brain damage. After the talk a lady fainted and everyone was escorted out of the room into the area that had all the CPR dummies in. We then watched a short clip and it showed us that you must go through a process called D.R.S.A.B.C. (Danger, Response, Shout for help, Airways, Breathing, CPR) In our groups we went and did different sections we firstly learnt how to do CPR and had to do 30 chest presses then 2 breaths. It was very hard work!! Then we went and learnt how a defibrillator works and where to put the patches, this was surprisingly easy as the defibrillator tells you what to do. After doing this we wandered around the displays and looked at the leaflets and posters to do with different aspects of CPR and cardiac treatment. Once we had a look at the different sections we had our photos taken with Martin Johnson (see left) and he signed a few of our posters. Cj and I then walked outside in the stands and looked around the pitch area. After the day was finished everybody went outside with our new defibrillators and had a photo taken.

"Saving people is my strength" quoted Cj.

Lucy Armstrong, Year 10 student



TRUE BLUE DANCE CREW GO TO LONDON

On the 26 January, as part of True Blue Dance Crew we had the opportunity to dance at Her Majesty's theatre London on the Phantom of the Opera set, this was part of a variety performance. 44 dancers aged 7-21, left Ratby at 7:30am on a VIP coach where we all travelled down together. We had 197 supporters come to see us in London; some came on supporter's coaches and some by car. Throughout the day we had the chance to meet west end star Gary Watson, who has been in various shows such as Les Miserables, Mama Mia,



Saturday Night Fever, Evita and Cats. During the day we had the opportunity to share the stage with numerous acts from all over Britain. **We were lucky enough to have the honour of opening the show with a modern mix dance.** We then had another performance in the second half of the show where we performed a lyrical dance and then all of the acts joined together for the finale. It was amazing, the audience were buzzing throughout our performance. Overall it was a brilliant show and an experience we'll never forget. In addition to this we've been offered further opportunities to perform in London in the next few years. After an amazing experience, we are now getting ready for our annual show here at Groby in March, which we are all looking forward to.

Groby Community students involved were; Sophie Houghton, Lizzie Pye, Emma Pye, Megan Lupton and Sadie Hurst



RUSSIAN DAY AT NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY

Привет- Privyet-Hi!

On 30 January 2014, a group of Groby students (Emily Woodall, Kitty Peacock, Olivia Carmichael, Tabatha Asher and Jake Merriman pictured left) attended an "Unravelling Russia" day organised by Business Language Champions at Nottingham University.

When we arrived, we were split into groups with people from schools from across the county. After we had introduced ourselves, we listened to a talk from speakers who told us about how studying Russian helped to improve their business opportunities. We were then split again into two groups; one for people already learning Russian and one for beginners where we had a taster session in Russian. The people that were already learning Russian had a taster session in Polish!

We then had more talks from a man who knew two Russian teenagers, and he told us all about them; what they liked to do after school, their favourite foods etc., and we soon noticed that they were similar to us, even to the extent that the teenage boy supported Norwich City Football Club, who I support, which I found pretty amazing! We were asked to design and make a product that could be sold as merchandise at the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics Games, and give a pitch to judges, explaining why our product was the best and explaining about it.

After lunch, we had a carousel of activities, which included Russian writing practice, learning words in Russian, a presentation and facts about the Sochi Winter Games, Russian students at the University of Nottingham telling us about their year abroad to Russia, and finally we got the chance to try Russian food, which included Kvas, a drink made from fermented rye bread, some really lovely sweets and chocolates, and even dried fish! Finally, we were presented with our certificates, and the winners were announced. None of our groups won, however Olivia's team came second and their product was touch screen gloves, with the Sochi logos on.

It really was a fun day, and I would like to say thank you to everyone who was involved with the trip! **Thank you!**

Emily Woodall, Year 10 student

ENGLISH, FILM AND MEDIA NEWS



Students pictured above at Shakespeare's grave in Holy Trinity Church.

Picture right is outside Shakespeare's birthplace.

Year 10 trip to Stratford upon Avon...

Students studying 'Othello' for their Literature controlled assessment had the opportunity to go on a backstage tour at the Royal Shakespeare Company in February, followed by a guided tour of Shakespeare's birthplace. The RSC part of the day gave students an insight into how theatrical productions are staged: from a glimpse at the wig making process to how the sound and lighting effects are managed. The tour around the Birthplace helped students to appreciate the context of Elizabethan England, important for their assessments.

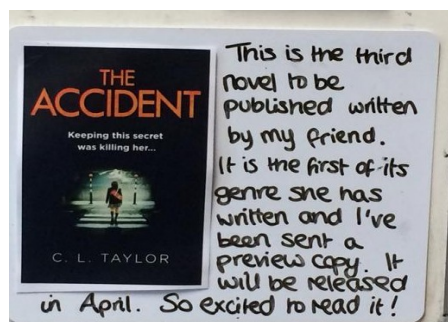
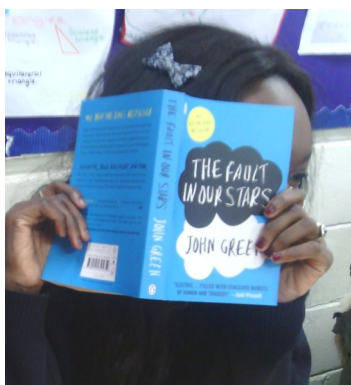


Congratulations Mrs Harding!!

In March Mrs Harding passed her Higher Learning Teaching Assistant qualification. Mrs Harding is a very valuable member of our Faculty, working closely with a wide range of students on one-to-ones or in small groups across years 10 and 11. The HLTA qualification, as well as Mrs Harding's English Degree, ensures that our students receive high quality teaching and mentoring from every member of our team.



LITERACY NEWS



All students have reading lists, found in their English folders. We would love to encourage more diverse reading and have recommended drama and poetry to broaden students' reading experiences. Come on, challenge yourself!



In February we launched an initiative to encourage students to pick up a book and escape into an alternate reality for a short time before lessons began. Happily, many students needed little encouragement and it was great to see the diverse range of choices they made. In their classrooms, teachers are still recommending books they have read, in our continued efforts to support literacy. Mrs Bellamy, Curriculum Leader for English, Film and Media

USEFUL WEBSITES FOR REVISION

(GENERIC WEBSITES FOR ALL SUBJECTS) www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/ <http://getrevising.co.uk>

ART: Exam board is AQA www.aqa.org.uk/

BUSINESS: Exam board is AQA www.businessstudiesonline.co.uk/live/

ENGLISH: Exam board is Edexcel

www.sparknotes.com Edexcel.com Revision materials also on VLE; practice questions/papers available from your teacher.
Revision guides for 'Of Mice and Men' and 'Heroes' are helpful and can be bought from the Science Prep Room.
There are other guides available from different publishers which are also handy, sold through all good bookstores!

FOOD TECHNOLOGY: Exam board is AQA

www.aqa.org.uk www.aqa.org.uk/qual/newgcscs/dandt/new/food_materials.php www.s-cool.co.uk/gcse/food-technology
www.nutrition.org.uk/ www.foodafactoflife.org.uk/ www.bbcgoodfood.com/

GEOGRAPHY: Exam board is AQA

www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-b-9035 www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/geography/
Internet Geography: www.geography.learnontheinternet.co.uk S-Cool Revision Site: www.s-cool.co.uk/
GeoResources: www.georesources.co.uk www.web.aqa.org.uk/qual/gce/humanities/geography/
Revision Notes: www.revision-notes.co.uk Good for map skills - www.mapzone.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/mapzone
Good for statistical information on countries and for maps - www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook

GRAPHICS: Exam board is WJEC

www.tep.org.uk www.chalkface.net www.revisioncentre.co.uk www.wjec.co.uk/index.php?subject=11&level=7
For inspiration: www.illustrationweb.com www.illustratoren.de www.debutart.com

HISTORY: Exam board is OCR

www.johndclare.net/ www.schoolhistory.co.uk/ www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/type/gcse_2012/hss/history_b/documents/

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE: Exam board is Edexcel

www.edexcel.com/quals/firsts2012/health-and-social-care/Pages/default.aspx www.nhs Careers.nhs.uk/

HOSPITALITY BTEC: Exam board is Edexcel

www.edexcel.com/quals/firsts2012/hospitality/Pages/default.aspx www.catererandhotelkeeper.co.uk/news/
www.edexcel.com/quals/nationals10/hosp/Pages/default.aspx

ICT: Exam board is OCR

Year 10: www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals-ict-level-1-2-j800-j810-j820/
Year 11: www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/ocr-nationals-ict-level-2-05659-04676-04679-from-2010/

LANGUAGES: Exam board is WJEC

www.lepointdufle.net www.gcse.com/german www.s-cool.co.uk/gcse/german www.quia.es www.spanish-extra.co.uk
www.learnspanish.co.uk www.oye.languageskills.co.uk www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/mafrance www.wjec.co.uk
www.s.cool.co.uk www.frenchrevision.co.uk Revision books are HIGHLY recommended - please see your teacher.

MATHS: Exam board for set 1 is AQA, for sets 2, 3 & 4 is Edexcel linear

www.MyMaths.co.uk School login name is **groby** and the password is **ratio**
www.fortythreedublogs.org/ www.mrhgartymaths.com/ www.mrbartonmaths.com/goodsites.htm
www.fronter.com/Leicestershire/ www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/maths/mocks/ pastpapers.org/aqa-gcse-mathematics-a
www.bland.in/GCSE%20Maths/ www.aqa.openassess.co.uk/openassess/login.aspx (Please see your teacher for login details)
www.sites.google.com/site/mathscasts/mathscast-videos AQA past papers and solutions on the VLE
For Functional Maths students practice level 1 and level 2 tests can be found at www.move-on.org

MUSIC: Exam board is AQA www.aqa.org.uk/

PE: Exam board is Edexcel

www.edexcel.com/quals/gcse/gcse09/pe www.edexcel.com/quals/first2012/sport www.teachpe.com www.s-cool.co.uk Revision materials; GCC VLE.

RMT & TEXTILES: Exam board is AQA

www.aqa.org.uk Past papers, model answers and revision guides available from subject teacher.

SCIENCE: Exam board is OCR

www.docbrown.info www.s-cool.co.uk www.darvill.clara.net www.ocr.org.uk for specification and past papers.
Revision materials; GCC VLE. Science revision books (highly recommended) can be bought for £3.50 each from the Science Prep Room.

TOP TIPS FOR STUDENTS AND YOUR EXAMS

So, the biggest exams of your life are just months away! Don't panic and pretend they'll go away - they won't!

But, if you're organised, you'll find the exams won't be the nightmare experience that you feared
- and if you go about things the right way you'll even get time for a social life.

10 steps to revision success:

1. **Revision space:** Find a good place to work. It should be quiet and uncluttered.
2. **Revision timetable:** Draw up a revision timetable - it's crucial. It should be realistic, cover all subjects and allow you time off to relax.
3. **Make notes:** Don't just read through your class work, make notes. One useful tip is to gradually condense your notes so they fit on the back of a postcard.
4. **Revision guides:** Get a recommendation from your teacher as to which are most useful and then make sure you use them!
5. **Questions and answers:** Write out some questions and answers to see how much you're actually remembering.
6. **Listen in:** Read your notes onto an electronic device and then play them walking down the street or whilst you're in bed.
7. **Prompts:** Put key words and phrases on sticky notes around the house, so you'll see them often.
8. **Seek help!:** Don't go it alone. They say a problem shared is a problem halved. So, get friends and family on board to help you revise.
9. **Past papers:** Make sure you get hold of some past papers, they're a really good way of knowing what to expect in the exam.
10. **Relax:** by being prepared and produce a revision timetable to help you. The exams are going to happen so you might as well give yourself the best chance of doing well by starting to revise early and keeping calm.

MORE TIPS AND A REVISION PLANNER IS AVAILABLE ON OUR COLLEGE WEBSITE: www.grobyscoll.com

EASTER REVISION HOLIDAY SESSIONS

Date	Subject	Year group	Purpose	Time
Monday 14 April	Science	11	Re-sit revision	9am – 12noon
	German	11	reading and Listening revision	10am – 12noon
	German	12	AS revision	1pm – 2.30pm
	Graphics	11	Coursework catch up	9am – 3pm
	Food	11	Coursework catch up	10am – 12.30pm
	Textiles	11	Coursework catch up	9am – 3pm
Tuesday 15 April	Science	11	Re-sit revision	9am – 12noon
	French	11	Reading skills revision	10am – 11am
	French	12	Paper 1 skills revision	12noon – 1pm
	French	13	Paper 3 (speaking skills) revision	1.30pm – 2.30pm
	Geography	11	Revision	9am – 11am
	History	12	Germany (essay paper) revision	9am – 1pm
Wednesday 16 April	Science	11	Re-sit controlled assessment	9am – 1pm
	Spanish	11	Reading and Listening revision	10am – 12noon
	History	12	Churchill (document paper) revision	9am – 1pm
Easter weekend				
Tuesday 22 April	Sociology	12	AS Revision	9am – 3pm
	History	11	History revision	9am – 3pm
Wednesday 23 April	Sociology	13	A2 Revision	9am – 1pm
Friday 25 April	Statistics	10	Coursework catch up	10am – 12noon

EXAM & KEY ASSESSMENT CALENDAR 2013 - 14

The main exam period is mid May to the end of June 2014.

The timetable will change to accommodate preparation, revision and exam warm-up sessions.

Students will be given an individual exam period timetable.

Revision tips, sample revision timetables and all the key assessments and exam dates can be found on the college website:

www.grobyscoll.com

EXAM SPECIAL

Helping your child succeed

*By working as a partnership between home, college and your child,
we aim to offer every available support in the run up to exams.*

DURING THE EXAM PERIOD

Ensure that:

- They know the date and time of all their exams.
- Your son/daughter gets a good night's sleep before exams.
- They have eaten properly before the exam.
- That they arrive at college in plenty time before the start of the exam.
- They have all the equipment they need:
 - 2 black pens, sharp pencils, eraser, ruler and **calculator** are essential.
 - For some exams other equipment may also be required e.g. a protractor, coloured pens....
 - All equipment available from our shop in the Science Faculty Area, Learning Resource Centre and the Examinations Officer.
- You wish them well, tell them they have worked hard enough and that they can only do their best.

READY MADE equipment packs are available for £1.00

COLLEGE CONTACTS

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with the college if you would like more help or advice to prepare your child for their exams.

Teachers are happy to help with any subject advice, for exams advice you can contact the Examinations Officer Allison Poulton by emailing direct; exams@grobycoll.com

The best time to telephone the college to be able to speak to a teacher is 8.30am to 3.30pm

The college telephone number is 0116 2879921

Groby Community College Website address is;
www.grobycoll.com

Booking holiday during these exam periods should be strictly avoided to ensure that students have the best possible opportunity for revision as well as sitting exams.



Achieving EXAM SUCCESS Together

'Everything you need to know for GCSE Maths'

'Active Revision Techniques'

Year 11 students and parent/carers exam support evening here at the college:

TUESDAY 25 MARCH 2014, 6.30pm - 8.00pm

Reaching for A*
(perfecting exam technique)

'Supporting your child to reach their potential in English'

Letters with reply slips were emailed to parents on Wednesday 26th February 2014

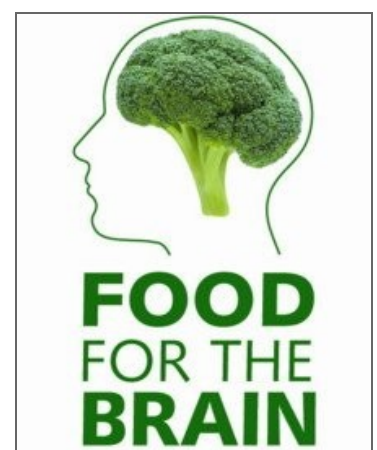
TIPS FOR HELPING YOUR CHILD TO REVISE EFFECTIVELY AND ACHIEVE THEIR BEST

- Encourage your child to go to lunchtime or after college classes / revision sessions to complete coursework or revise. Could offer incentives e.g. extra pocket money, meals out, CDs etc.
- Encourage your son/daughter to ask for help at college on any parts of their work they do not understand.
- Make a revision timetable with them which includes the dates and times of the examinations. Include social time within this to avoid confrontation.
- Have the revision timetable displayed in the house and check on their progress regularly.
- Check your child has all the notes and books they need for revision. Revision guides are **highly recommended** and available to buy at college.
- Check how they are doing by letting them explain something they have just learnt. It's a good rule of thumb that if you can follow their explanation then they will be able to produce a good answer to an exam question on that topic.
- Help your child understand that it is useful to revise in small chunks of 30-40 mins. Encourage your child to have a good break and then start again.
- Encourage your child to use a variety of revision strategies such as spider diagrams, mind mapping, revision cards and listing key points. Reading is not enough!
- Make sure they are not revising right up to bedtime, they need to wind down before bed in order to get a good night's sleep.
- Make sure they have the right environment to revise. They need a peaceful, dedicated space.
- Limit the time spent with boyfriend/girlfriend/friends; agree on times and dates.
- Plan to revise specific topics in each subject, not everything at once, starting with the most difficult bits is a useful technique.
- Plan to cover each subject several times and revisit each one near to the exams.
- Revising with the TV or radio on or with loud music is not a good idea.
- Have all the books they need to hand so they don't have to go off looking for information.
- Working with a friend can be useful because it allows them to test each other and to talk about the work. You might want to encourage group revision sessions by getting some pizza, snacks etc. and making it a fun experience.
- Remove distractions for limited times eg. mobile phones, computer games etc.
- Have incentives linked to reasonable goals and praise them when they have studied well.
- Having mini tests at home will help your child check their understanding of a subject.
- Recognise how important these exams are and how much time your son/daughter will need if they are to do as well as they can; avoid asking them to do too many chores or to look after younger brothers and sisters. Encourage some planned relaxation time.
- Encourage the rest of the family to help by not disturbing revision.
- Stay cool! You need to be a role model, so if you're getting stressed about the exams this will increase the likelihood of your child feeling anxious.
- Show an interest in what they are doing.
- Listen to them, let them talk to you about their work and offload their stress. Be comforting and reassuring.

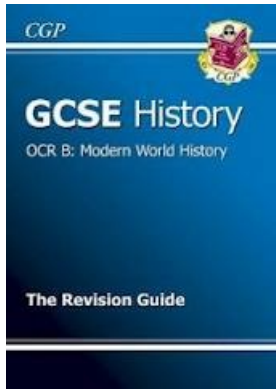


HEALTHY BODY, HEALTHY MIND!

- Encourage healthy eating, especially brain foods like fish and super foods such as: bananas, broccoli, carrots, mangoes and salmon.
- Remind them about the importance of drinking water. (By the time you're thirsty 20% of your brain has shut down).
- Make sure they eat breakfast. (If you have not eaten by 10.30am you have the reaction speed of a 70 year old!)
- Take breaks but no computer games between revision, only physical exercise.
- Ensure adequate sleep. Be in bed no later than 10.30pm.



FACULTY REVISION TIPS



HISTORY TIPS!

- Look at the website for your syllabus, and look at the past papers, mark schemes and the specification. GCSE (OCR History B: Modern World) can be found here: <http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-history-b-modern-world-j417-j117-from-2012/>. A Level (OCR History A) can be found here: <http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-history-a-h106-h506/>. You can even download these documents onto your Smartphone, tablet or computer. There are also apps available that will test your knowledge, particularly for Germany revision, and the First and Second World Wars.
- Practice exam papers and essays. Ask your teacher to give you some feedback. Look at your marked work and see where you have gone wrong in the past. Try to improve past work.
- Look for sources, especially GCSE and Year 12s studying Churchill, at political cartoons, which you can put into context, evaluate and look at sources as evidence. Other sources you can look for are paintings, newspaper archives, textbooks, History books (Leicester Central Library has an excellent collection of books), eBooks.
- For History revision sessions please refer to the information displayed on the door of room 29.
- Parents: discuss the topics with your child. Ask them to tell you about the things that they have learned, or to explain to you what their work is about. Offer to proof read their work for spelling, punctuation and grammar mistakes which they may be penalised for. Encourage them to follow the tips above. If you have any questions, or would like more guidance about what you can do to support your child, please contact Ana Hall at the college, or email ahall@grobycoll.com
- You have a revision guide which you should be using. You can also buy the CGP revision guide too from the College shop.

"You can find more revision tips on the college website under History"

www.grobycoll.com



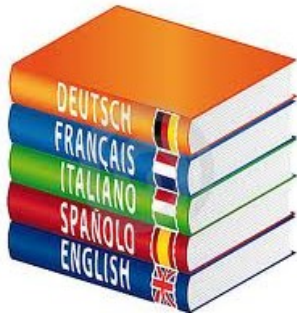
SCIENCE

- Ensure you get an up to date revision guide and use it!
- Try some past examination papers (links on the college website).
- A calculator is required for all science exams, ensure you are familiar with how it works.
- Read the questions very carefully, especially the long answer questions as these are often 2 or 3 questions rolled into one.
- Check how many marks each question is worth and answer accordingly, if you write nothing this will result in no marks.



GEOGRAPHY

- Revise thoroughly. One way of doing this is to make revision cards that you can use regularly.
- When writing mini essays in exams make sure that you use specific place detail from your case studies/examples to allow you to give in depth answers.
- Make sure that you improve work after it has been marked.
- Use websites like BBC bitesize and S-cool to revise topics like tourism, Earthquakes and Volcanoes.
- Use old exam papers and mark schemes to test yourself. These are all available on the shared area in the geography exams area.



LANGUAGES TIPS!

- Read the questions **first** and **carefully** – underline the “question word” – who, what, why etc so that you know what you are looking for.
- Check how many marks there are; 2 marks = 2 answers, 1 mark = 1 answer. If you give 2 answers for a 1 mark answer this will take away the correct mark and get you a 0!
- ONLY ANSWER IN ENGLISH – French, German or Spanish will not get you any points even if it is correct.
- Revise vocabulary in topic based lists or mindmaps. Questions are normally topic based and this will help you get an idea of what is going on. Revise vocabulary often, just because you have written it out once doesn't mean it will stay in your brain! **Little and often** is the key.

BUSINESS TIPS!

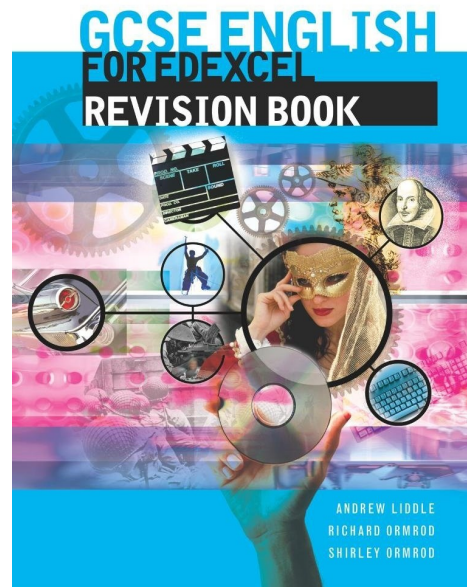
Revision tips for Year 11 Business and Communication Systems:

- Purchase a revision guide from the college shop
- To revise thoroughly and complete past papers for the Unit 8 exam in June 2014 using your booklets, revision guide and bitesize
- Access <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/business/aims/limitedcompaniesvid.shtml> Make sure you choose the topics relevant to the Business & Communication Systems course
- To develop and practise skills associated with word processing, spreadsheets, databases and web authoring for the Unit 9 (Using ICT in Business) computer exam in May 2014, complete past papers given out in college and by accessing <http://www.aga.org.uk/subjects/business-studies/gcse/business-subjects-and-economics-4130/past-papers-and-mark-schemes>
- During the exam read the questions carefully and look at the mark allocation to guide you on the type of answer expected
- Speak to a member of the business team if you require any further guidance

ICT TIPS!

This is for Year 12 students; use this link to access past papers and mark schemes:

- <http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-ict-applied-h115-h315-h515-h715/>
- To attempt all mock questions set in lesson and revisit any incorrect answers. Practice mock papers from the OCR website on a regular basis and become familiar with the format.

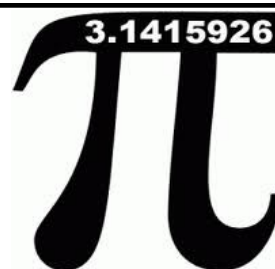


ENGLISH REVISION TIPS

- There are a number of revision sites on-line including sparknotes.com and shmoop.com which are particularly useful. Practice questions/papers available from your teacher and will be marked as extra homework. Revision guides are helpful and can be bought from the school shop; ask your English teacher for the Poetry revision guide. The best revision is to read the texts again and re-read your marked essays paying close attention to the feedback.

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MATHS TIPS

- Students should be taking advantage of a variety of methods for revision in the lead up to exams. The best way to revise for a maths exam is practice, practice, practice! The college website contains some useful links to popular and useful revision sites for maths.
- Students will be issued with a past paper a week in the lead up to exams. You can support us by encouraging them to complete these and hand them in on a weekly basis, for marking and advice on how to improve. If you think your child is not receiving homework, please do not hesitate to contact their maths teacher.
- The correct equipment is essential for success. Help us by ensuring your child has the correct equipment every maths lesson, this way we can make sure that they know how to use it correctly in the exam.

MATHS NEWS

NATIONAL MATHS COMPETITION



On Wednesday 5 March a group of four Year 10 Mathematicians entered the regional heat of a National Maths Competition at Loughborough University. The competition combines mathematical skills with team work and communication skills. There are four rounds of challenges for students to work together and develop their enjoyment of mathematics.

Pictured above Groby was represented by:

- **Charlotte Bashforth**
- **Ellie Greening**
- **Nicholas Wilson**
- **Jasmine Eames**

The hall was full of over 60 students from various schools in the east midlands region. Our team did really well and finished mid table. Activities included a round of questions on number sequences and a hexadecimal puzzle to solve. The students involved said how much they enjoyed meeting likeminded people from other schools and the challenges of working together in a problem solving relay team.

Mrs Bearne, Assistant Principal – Learning College

MATHS RESEARCH DAY AT LOUGHBOROUGH UNI



The Maths faculty prides itself on having close links with Leicestershire's universities. We work with colleagues on a regular basis, meaning that when opportunities arise for our students we are kept well informed.

On the 27 and 28 of February a group of Year 11 students took part in a research project at Loughborough University.

The students had the opportunity to engage with some A level maths taught by Dr Rob Bond at the Mathematics Education Centre. They also met with some undergraduate Maths students who gave them a tour of the campus and spoke to them about life at University.

The students thoroughly enjoyed themselves and found it to be a valuable experience.

Mrs Parma, Curriculum Leader for Maths

Numeracy

At the start of this half term all staff were invited to complete maths exam papers alongside our Year 11 students. There has been a positive response to this as many staff, in various faculties, have taken on the challenge. Many of them have not attempted a maths exam paper since they sat their GCSE so it really got them thinking about which skills they should be using. It has also been useful for staff to see which topics Year 11 are required to know for their maths exam and if these can be taught in their own subject area.

A staff leader board can be found outside of room 5. Compare your results with these and see if you can beat their scores!

Miss Johal, Numeracy Co-ordinator

Answer this if you can!

Three friends equally split the cost of a meal which was £30 in total. They pay £30 to the waiter. However, the waiter realises that there is a special offer on and the three friends have overpaid by £5. He goes to return the money back to the friends. They tell him to give £1 each to the three of them and keep £2 as a tip. So they paid £9 each, totally £27, and the waiter has a £2 tip which gives £29. **Where is the missing £1?** This riddle was set by a student in Year 11 (11x3) **The answer will be given in the next newsletter.**

The solution from the January 2014 newsletter question is 20.

COMPUTER CLUB

Every Wednesday a group of Year 11 and 12 students meet to learn about and discuss computer programming and coding. We all take a deep interest in computer programming and construction and some of us are taking it at GCSE/A-level. So far this year we have looked at a few things including Python and App design. Our current project is robot design and we are in the process of designing a robot of which we are going to make and code to enter into a competition of which we will have to get the robot to complete a certain task such as opening a can or lifting an object, not only that but we are hoping to go up against another school in a robot fight.

Will Parish, Year 11 student



POST 16 SOCIAL SCIENCE REVISION CLASSES

AS Psychology - Wednesday's

- 5 March – Bodily response to stress and stress-related illness
- 12 March – Life changes, daily hassles and workplace
- 19 March – Personality and treatments of stress
- 26 March – Conformity
- 2 April – Obedience to authority
- 9 April – Explanations for independent behaviour and social change
- 30 April – Definitions of abnormality and biological explanations and treatments
- 8 May – Psychological explanations and treatments
- 14 May – Unit 1 (Research Methods)

A2 Psychology - Monday's or Tuesday's

- 31 March – Clinical Characteristics of Depression, Issues around Diagnosis
- 7 April – Biological Explanations and Treatments of Depression
- 28 April – Psychological Explanations and Treatments of Depression
- 7 May – The Application of Scientific Method in Psychology
- 12 May – Designing Psychological Investigations
- 19 May – Data Analysis and Reporting on Investigations

Mrs Varney, Lead Teacher for Social Science

LATE BUSES

FREE TO ALL STUDENTS!

In order to support the extended learning day, the college is running additional buses, departing at a later time of **4.30pm** every:

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday

This will accommodate those students who stay beyond the college day to do extra work and enrichment activities.

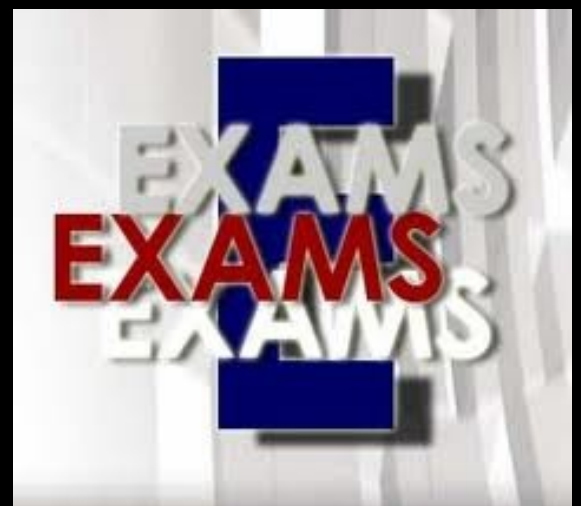
This is a repeat service for the following 3 buses:

- S117 Markfield
- S120 Kirby Muxloe and LFE
- City and New Parks

ADDITIONAL YEAR 12 GEOGRAPHY REVISION CLASS

I would like to make you aware that in addition to the Tuesday lunch time revision class, the Geography Department will be putting on an additional revision class for all Year 12 geography students on a Thursday lunch time from 1:30pm—2.00pm.

Miss Wright, Lead Teacher for Geography



KEY DIARY DATES

- Monday 24 February • College open
- Monday 24 - Friday 28 February • German trip
 - Thursday 6 March • Year 12 Subject reports afternoon/evening 4pm - 7pm
 - Thursday 13 March • Year 10 annual full reports available online via Parental Online Access
 - Thursday 20 March • Year 10 subject reports afternoon/evening 3.45pm - 7.15pm
 - Thursday 20 March • Year 11 & 13 group leavers photos
 - Friday 4 April • Year 11, 12 & 13 interim reports available online via Parental Online Access
- Monday 7 - Friday 11 April • Year 10 exam week
- Wednesday 9 - Thursday 10 April • BTEC Music recitals

MONDAY 14 - FRIDAY 25 APRIL EASTER BREAK

- Monday 28 April • College open
- Monday 5 May • May Day; college closed (Bank Holiday)
 - Friday 9 May • Year 10 interim reports available online via Parental Online Access
- Wednesday 14 May • Parents/Carers' Forum 7pm - 8pm

MONDAY 26 - FRIDAY 30 MAY MID TERM BREAK

- Monday 2 June • College open
- Tuesday 3 June • Higher Education parents/carers' evening 6.00pm
- Wednesday 11 - Friday 13 June • Summer Show
 - Friday 20 June • Year 10 interim reports available online via Parental Online Access
- Monday 30 June • Year 12 taster lessons
- Monday 30 June • Year 9 parents/carers' induction evening 6.30pm
- Tuesday 1 and Wednesday 2 July • Year 12 performance
 - Wednesday 2 - Friday 4 July • Induction days
 - Thursday 3 July • College concert

FRIDAY 11 JULY • COLLEGE CLOSSES AT 1pm (in line with Brookvale Highschool)

SUMMER TERM DATES SUMMARY 2013-14

Open	Monday 28 April 2014
Bank Holiday; May day	Monday 5 May 2014
Mid-Term Break	Monday 26 to Friday 20 May 2014
Close	Friday 11 July 2014 @ 1pm (in line with Brookvale)

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Mrs Tracey Jarvis Tel 0116 281 7002 or reprographics@grobyscoll.com



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