



# Ramsey Grammar School

*Scoil Ghrammeydys Rhumsaa*

**Invest, Believe, Achieve Together**

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## **Year 11 Extracurricular Sessions October 24**

Dear Parent/ Carer

As we approach the end of the first half term of Year 11 it is important to inform you and your child of what is on offer from the school to ensure students are successful in their GCSE studies.

We are now **just 5 school weeks** away from the beginning of the mock examination period and **19 school weeks away** from the summer exam series proper.

We can't stress enough how vital it is that Year 11 students make use of extracurricular sessions on offer from subjects during this crucial period in their lives.

A table of available sessions is attached with this letter. Below are the reasons students should attend.

### **1. Reinforcement of Learning**

**Consolidation of Concepts:** Extracurricular classes provide more time to review, revisit and reinforce key topics covered in regular lessons. This helps students solidify their understanding of challenging concepts, reducing gaps in knowledge.

**Extra Practice:** Many GCSE subjects, especially maths, science and languages, require regular practice. Extracurricular sessions offer additional opportunities to work through problems, apply knowledge and practice exam-style questions.

### **2. Targeted Support**

**Personalised Attention:** In smaller extracurricular groups teachers can focus more on individual students' needs, offering personalized guidance that may be harder to provide in regular class settings. This tailored approach can help students who are struggling in certain areas.

**Focus on Weaknesses:** Students can concentrate on the subjects or topics they find difficult. Teachers in these classes often spend extra time on topics that are commonly misunderstood or require more explanation.

### **3. Boost in Confidence**

**Increased Mastery:** As students gain more practice and clarification in extracurricular sessions, their confidence in the subject matter increases. This confidence can improve participation in regular classes and lead to better performance in exams.

**Overcoming Exam Anxiety:** Regularly attending these sessions can help students feel more prepared for their GCSE exams. Familiarity with exam formats, frequent testing and extra revision reduce anxiety and improve ability to manage time and pressure in actual exam situations.

### **4. Improved Exam Performance**

**Focused Exam Preparation:** Many extracurricular GCSE classes are designed with exam preparation in mind. Teachers often focus on key topics, high-yield questions and exam strategies, giving students a better understanding of what to expect and how to approach the exams.

**Access to Extra Resources:** These sessions may provide access to resources not available during regular lessons, such as past exam papers, additional worksheets or online tools specifically designed for GCSE revision.



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## 5. Development of Study Habits

**Time Management:** Attending extracurricular classes helps students develop a structured approach to studying. Regularly setting aside time for additional learning builds discipline and time management skills, which are crucial not only for GCSEs but for future academic and professional endeavours.

## 6. Higher grades

**Higher Attainment:** Consistent attendance at extracurricular classes is linked to improved grades because of the extra learning time, focused revision and enhanced understanding of the material. This can make the difference between grade boundaries, helping students achieve the higher grades needed for further education or competitive courses.

**Closing Learning Gaps:** For students who have fallen behind or missed important lessons due to illness or other reasons extracurricular classes offer the chance to catch up on missed content, reducing the likelihood of falling further behind.

## 7. Access to Expert Guidance

**Experienced Teachers:** Often extracurricular classes are run by experienced or specialist teachers who can offer deeper insights into the GCSE subject matter. Their expertise and advice can be invaluable for mastering difficult content or developing more efficient study techniques.

**Direct Feedback:** In these smaller settings students can get more immediate feedback on their work, helping them identify mistakes and misconceptions and improve faster.

Please encourage students to attend as many sessions as they can.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Smith  
Deputy Headteacher