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of the year

WHAT TO DO WHEN: Nicola Whiston's guide to year 11 GCSEs

September

- Letter home to parents from HoD - outline the year and revision list for first class papers.
- Yr 11 to sit one full paper in class.
- Set numerical improvement target for next paper (try a 3 to 5 mark improvement).
- Still completing content in class.

October

- Second letter home to parents from HoD - include students' scores and revision list for next paper - a mock paper. Also include 'a question a day' calendar for November to stick on the fridge at home.
- Still completing content in class.

November/December

- Continue to send 'a question a day' calendar home each month, with answers from the previous month.
- Before end-of-term, also send home this half term's results/improvements and January's revision list.
- Reward improvements! A Dominos pizza takeaway goes down a treat.

March

- Complete a full set of mocks before Easter.
- Highlight topics poorly performed that may need to be re-taught.
- Reward time again! Focus on significant improvements from earlier papers and mocks.

February

- Papers, papers, papers!
- Do papers as a class; with support of mark schemes, highlight patterns in types of questions and methods to revise.

January

- Move from books to folders.
- Topic per lesson as revision/topic recaps.
- In-class papers every two weeks - reflect on improvements since September.

After Easter

- Booster sessions - before or after school sessions with students who want to come in and work with you.
- Get them talking - encourage students to explain to each other their reasons for how to answer a question.
- Facilitate movement around the classroom while papers are being completed so they can learn from different peers.
- Online revision lessons - an option to help you fit in revision sessions around your life.

Exam Days

- Open early (7am) with offering of fruit, tea, orange juice and breakfast, alongside a paper or revision mat.
- Be there early to support last-minute cramming and deliver revision tips/address misconceptions.



Please note that this guide is how I timetable the exam year at my school for you to take tips from - what works for one, may not work for another! Take what works for you.