



Biddenham

International School & Sports College

Principal: Mr David Bailey

Head of School: Ms Eleanor Grylls

Dear Parent/Carer

As we near the end of the year for Year 11 I wanted to send home this letter to let you know about an additional upcoming revision opportunity for our GCSE History students.

We are inviting students in on Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 29th May to do final preparation for Paper 2 (Superpower Relations and the Cold War and Early Elizabethan England) which they will be sitting on Tuesday 4 June.

The days are split between the two halves of the paper, to provide students with the opportunity to delve into exam question technique and content. As this paper is worth 40% of their overall GCSE, and it is traditionally the paper that our students struggle with the most, we feel it is necessary to give them as much of a chance as possible to be successful.

Tuesday 28 May 10am - 1pm in R14 Early Elizabethan England	Wednesday 29 May 10am-1pm in R14 Superpower Relations and the Cold War
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Furthermore, we want to take this opportunity to pass on information from the exam board, Edexcel, about changes to the way the exam series will be marked this summer. In the past, GCSE History students have had additional barriers to overcome when writing exam answers for questions and following on from a review of the previous exam series, Edexcel have made changes that we feel will benefit our students. Students will no longer be penalised for failing to use the stimulus points (hints they are given) when answering 8 mark narrative analysis, 12 mark explain why or 16 mark judgement essay questions, the exam questions will be written more clearly and the stimulus points will be more accessible.

What does this mean for your child? It means that the wording of the exam questions should be easier to understand and that they will not lose out on marks when answering the above question types if they fail to write about the hints given to them. I have included an example below:

(b) Explain why Mary, Queen of Scots, was executed in 1587.

(12)

You **may** use the following in your answer:

- the Privy Council
- Mary's claim to the English throne

You **must** also use information of your own.

I also wish to thank you for all your support in helping us help your child throughout their History GCSE.

Yours sincerely,

Ree Ann Vaughan
Head of History and Politics

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