

NEWSLETTER

"Despite the forecast, live like it's spring."

Lilly Pulitzer, Fashion Designer

Week 15 2023-24

SPRING TERM BEGINS



NEW ARRIVALS

As we open the new term, CATS Cambridge opens its doors to new arrivals from across the world. It's always nice to see new faces and make new friends. Arrivals Weekend was the usual busy affair with students coming in throughout each day to register and settle into their new surroundings.

The following days typically involve placement tests in English and Maths so we can help the students find their feet with lessons as soon as possible, but in between students found time to relax and have some fun.



MOCK EXAMS WEEK

With mock exams in full swing, it's important that students use what time they have to ensure they are well-prepared for anything the exam might throw at them. It's never too late to start. There is a wealth of advice available for students looking for that extra edge, but these three techniques have been recommended by experts again and again.

3 TOP TECHNIQUES FOR REVISION

Layering

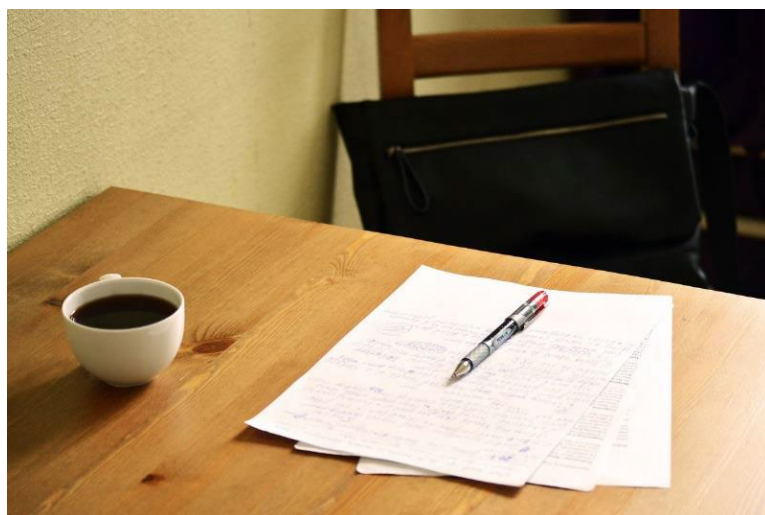
A simple but useful tool for consolidating complex information, layering starts with the easiest facts in a topic. This acts as the foundation. Once you are confident in the basics, you begin to gradually add more complex information. This is especially useful combined with traditional revision cards, where you can physically build your deck of cards at a pace you can manage, learning in stages based on the level of complication.

The Protégé Effect

Students who teach others actually work harder to ensure they understand the material they are teaching, remember it more accurately, and apply it to their own work with more efficiency. If you're short of willing volunteers, you can always talk to the duck!

Interleaving

The "interleaving" technique is based on what you do with your time during your revision. As opposed to dedicating a whole day to revise a subject (known as the "blocking" technique), interleaving mixes different subjects together on the same day. Using the interleaving technique can help to improve scores and grades on your final exam. By using this revision technique, it can help to improve the brain's ability to differentiate different concepts and information. Interleaving is a technique that all students can use and apply and you are able to embed as much or as little information as you want. Also, by revisiting subjects in short 20-30 minute sessions, this can help to increase the amount of information that you remember during tests and exams.



CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

As the new term opens it's time for some important decisions to be made, not least what clubs our students will be engaging in through the term.

We have a wide range of clubs on offer, ranging from academic clubs like Chemistry and Economics, but also plenty of sports clubs, including football, badminton, and volleyball.

We also added Chess Club to this term and the ever-popular Board Games club continues to pull in new students of all ages.

If you are interested in joining a club, speak to George Leland, Sports and Activities Manager, or as he introduced himself to the new arrivals "Head of Fun"!



CLUBS & ACTIVITIES SPRING 2024

Monday

E sports	Idnam Hussain	17:00-18:00	Lab 04
Book Club	Janet Wilson	17:00-18:00	207
Chemistry	Mike Liptrot	17:00-18:00	Lab 05
Basketball	Phil Bond	17:00-18:00	North Cambridge Academy
Volleyball	Rey Limson	18:00-19:00	North Cambridge Academy
Stem Club	Neelam Debata	16:00-17:00	Lab 06

Tuesday

Literature	Rebecca Baker Milne	17:00-18:00	104
Current Affairs	Eric Boston	17:00-18:00	211
Electronics	Kevin Healey	17:00-18:00	Lab 02
Duke of Edinburgh	Emily Van Loo	17:00-18:00	Common Room
Model United Nations	Ian Hunt	17:00-18:00	203
Board Game	Keith Norfolk	17:00 – 18:00	The Hub

Wednesday

Running Club	Richard Tateson Kevin Healey	17:00-18:00	Meet in reception
Chess Club	Qadeer Azfal	Lunch time	The hub
Tennis	George Leland	17:00-18:00	North Cambridge Academy
Table Tennis	Rob Derbyshire	17:00-18:00	The Marquee
Economics	Paul Ibram	17:00-18:00	202
Fashion Hacking	Suzanna De Beer	17:00-18:00	Common Room
Origami	Sabhya Dhingra	17:00-18:00	105

Thursday

Badminton	Rey Limson	17:00-18:00	North Cambridge Academy
Art	Rebecca Nash	16:00-17:00	Common Room
Football Team	Godfrey Materuere	18:00-20:00	Meet in reception
Young Enterprise	Sandra Vojnovic	17:00-18:00	201
AI	Bugatt	18:00-19:00	214



A Mocking Spring

Martin Blake
Assistant Principal



Welcome to the Spring Term but it certainly doesn't feel like it. The UK is gripped in its winter cold spell, the days are short and gloomy, and the students are gearing up for mock exams. For a season traditionally associated with blooming flowers and a sense of new beginnings, students across the school are wrestling with the consequences of their old choices. For some, it's a welcome challenge they are well-prepared for, others not so much and some hard truths will need to be faced.

The juxtaposition between the rejuvenating spirit of spring and the anxiety-laden preparations for exams creates a unique contrast. On one hand, the long winter term has drawn to an end and this term in comparison is much shorter. As it progresses, the term lightens up and warms, the days become clement, and the promise held in the last days of winter begins to unfold. On the other, while the world outside their textbooks is beginning to burst into life, the academic world within becomes a realm of stress, worry and study sessions. It is a test of resilience more akin to winter than a celebration of nature's renewal.

Ironically, it is within this juxtaposition that the truth lies. Spring relies on winter as the preceding season necessary to set the stage for regrowth and renewal. The transition is an indispensable part of the cycle of the natural world, where one informs the other. Many species need this cold period to complete their life cycles. It serves as a natural reset for agricultural lands, killing off pests and disease, and increasing the fertility of soil through freeze/thaw cycles. The interconnectedness of the seasons ensures that each phase contributes to the overall sustainability and functionality of the Earth's ecosystems.

Mock exams are an indispensable part of the educational journey. They provide opportunities for practice in the right conditions. They create enough pressure to encourage most students to engage seriously in the learning, breaking procrastination between far-off final exam dates and the need to maintain a strong work ethic, which many students often struggle with. In short, mock exams remind the students of what is coming. For some, it is the wakeup call, the necessary realisation of consequences to come, yet still providing time to divert the course, should they choose to do so. For others, it is the confirmation of effort, an interim reward for a job well done.

From the mock exams, new life is breathed into a school. Students previously dawdling in their education find themselves buckling down to their notes, setting up study groups, asking questions in class. Grades once considered out of reach become possible through hard graft. The reality is we shape our future at every turn by the decisions we make. The lessons we can pull from sitting mock exams are there to take, if one is prepared to look honestly enough. For those that do, hope begins to grow; hope for achievement, success, and a future. Like the onset of Spring, mock exams can promise a rebirth, a blossoming future, no longer laden with uncertainties.

For some.