

# LIVING NORTH

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## Be *Prepared*

As the summer exam season draws ever closer, we speak to teachers at some of the North's leading independent schools to see how they prepare their students to perform at their best

### AYSGARTH SCHOOL

'We understand the importance of developing effective study skills. Encouraging a sense of independence and an acknowledgement that time spent wrestling with ideas and developing a deep grasp of taught material is essential – though this is not always easy and does require support and encouragement from staff. As the boys progress through the school, we slowly expect more from them during the day, in prep sessions and during holidays; through this we help make the link between effort and success clear, and this message is one we reiterate in all we do at the school.'

'The most important thing we do is provide support with staff who are always available and willing to give that little extra for those seeking help. Staff do provide regular sessions that pupils are encouraged to drop in to, but, importantly, these are not compulsory; this is all part of our aim to develop independence, an ability to self-assess needs and a degree of tenacity in overcoming difficulties.'

'Preparation for exams, or anything that is important to you, takes time. Above all, the need to revisit material regularly and with a desire to learn is essential. Spending hours repeating facts is not efficient use of time so, if in doubt, seek guidance from your teachers, whose experience and advice is really worth making use of. At home, have a space set aside dedicated to work, and decide each day what you are going to tackle on the following day – lay it out and have it ready. The more important the exams, the longer you should be working, and repeat your work in different ways, make links and test yourself.'

– Dr Ed Canning (Director of Studies)

