



29th April 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

This is a letter outlining the key messages for Year 11 students in the lead up to this summer's GCSE examination period. There are several attachments with more detailed information for you also.

Additional Mock Exams

It is a real pleasure to inform you that Year 11 students were excellent throughout this period of extra mock exams. This period was a further experience of the Sports Hall as an exams venue and they conducted themselves in a very mature and professional manner. Also, levels of equipment were much improved on last December's mocks. Very few students had to be issued with pens, pencils or calculators. We would like to remind all parents that students not having the correct equipment, negatively impacts on other students. In these cases, time is wasted issuing equipment in a large hall, affecting both concentration levels and finish times, which, in turn, can lead to shorter break/lunch times. Thank you in advance for your support in ensuring this is not an issue during the GCSEs themselves.

Exam Guides and Timetables

Year 11 students have been given their personalised exam timetables for this summer's GCSE exam period by their Tutors. Also attached to this letter is this year's Exams Guide. It is very important that you and your child read both of these documents carefully as they contain vital information that you will need for a successful examination period. The Exam Guide is a document outlining processes, current JCQ rules and regulations, school expectations and also some extra advice on preparing for exams. There is also information about the collection of exam results in August. The exam timetable your child has been given is personalised to your child. Therefore, please check it carefully and display it prominently in your home!

Support and Study Leave Arrangements

These are outlined in an attached document. Details for the continued support on offer over the GCSE exam period are made clear and have been split into three time-frames of up to half term, during half term and after half term. Please ensure this information is read in full so that your child is able to access the best possible support for them over the coming weeks.

Revision Resource - GCSEPod

Please could we also ask you to make sure your child is logged on and able to access GCSEPod. This is a tremendously popular and effective revision tool. For most subjects, it means that short revision videos and quizzes are available in every topic examined. We know effective use of GCSEPod can have a positive effect on exam grades so please encourage your child in using this as a starting point.

Finally, as outlined in the Exam Guide, it is imperative that all students attend all exams. Only in the rarest, extreme cases are special considerations given by exam boards and only if provided with a range of formal medical evidence. Please refer to the Exam Guide for more detail on this including exam fees for non-attendance.

Yours sincerely

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