

Dear Parents and Carers

16 October 2020

Following the announcement by the government this week, I thought it prudent to write to you to confirm our plans to support our Year 11 students. The government has said that it is planning to hold GCSE exams this year. However, the timings for these will change, allowing more time for teachers and students to prepare for them. The government has provisionally stated that the majority of exams will now be after the May half term. Results day will now be on Friday 27 August. At this stage we don't have any further details but as soon as we have more information we will let you know.

Our main message to Year 11 is do not panic, but instead, work hard, be on time, be engaged in lessons and focus on learning. Calm and purposeful working is the best preparation for whatever may happen over the horizon. The government has said that further potential local lockdowns could affect the viability of the GCSE exams. If exams do not proceed, it is most likely that students will be assessed using a system of Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs) as I outlined in my previous letter.

This year, we are using a combination of formal mock exams and in-class assessments to support your child's progress. These will give us a good idea of your child's attainment. Furthermore, these assessments can be used by your child to focus their learning, highlighting areas of strength and weakness. In order to avoid unnecessary stress, we have planned for assessments to happen at different times through the year. To make it easy for you to support your children, I have included an overview of all the assessments below as well as a more detailed sheet attached.

November Mock Exams

Tuesday 3/11	Thursday 5/11	Friday 6/11	Tuesday 10/11
Periods 1 and 2 9.00am start	Periods 1 and 2 9.00am start	Periods 3 and 4 11.30am start	Periods 1 and 2 9.00am start
Maths Paper One Higher and Foundation 1hr 30 mins	English Lit Paper One All students 50 mins	Science, Separate and Combined Separate 1hr 45, Combined 1hr 10	Maths Paper Two Higher and Foundation 1hr 30 mins

In order to help the progress of your child, the heads of English, maths and science would like to remind you of the following:

English

Students need a copy of the C19th novel being taught after the half term holiday. You can get these from Student Reception. Also, please remember the November mock exam is now a literature paper (Romeo and Juliet) and not a language paper. This is so we can give students the best possible chance to succeed.

Maths

Revision guides and workbooks for the GCSEs are available from Student Reception for £5.70 (the total cost for both). Also available from Student Reception, at a cost of £6.30, are Corbettmaths revision cards. Your child should check whether to purchase Higher or Foundation tier revision resources. Students in set 1 may also want to purchase the Grade 8-9 workbook.

Science

There are workbooks and revision guides, but these are dependent on which science course your child is studying. If you have yet to purchase these, please buy through Student Reception or online through our website, and then pick up from the science prep room. The science team will make sure you get the right resource.

We have been so proud of how the majority of Year 11s have returned to school after lockdown, especially their work in lessons and attendance at revision sessions. We will soon be producing a new revision schedule, which will go live after half term. I will ensure this is shared with you once it is finalised. As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely



Jim Thomson
Deputy Headteacher