

15th October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 11 Exams

We were very pleased with the work ethic shown by Year 11 during lockdown and we are confident that they have not been overly disadvantaged, due to their hard work. However, we are very conscious that everyone is anxious about next summer's exams and the impact of such a long period off school. At present we do not have any clearly confirmed information from Ofqual or the exam boards with regard to the format, timing or any reduction in content of exams next year.

We are determined that our students will not be disadvantaged by any last minute changes to exams, so we have decided that this year, we will run two sets of exams for Year 11. The first exam week will be November 23rd – November 27th, and the second will be 1st to 5th March. Exams will take place under exam conditions; the papers will be slightly shorter than the real thing and will test students on areas of the curriculum that have already been covered (including during lockdown). Students who have been assessed as needing additional time, etc., will be given those access arrangements. The exam papers will use questions from previous papers and they will be marked using the exam board mark scheme, so that we can gain as accurate a picture as possible of progress and attainment.

It is critical that students take these exams very seriously and revise as thoroughly as they would for the real exam.

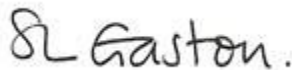
Two sets of exams will allow us to show progress over a period of several months; it will also ensure that every student has an opportunity to show his or her best work and that we are able to see clearly where there might be gaps in learning or understanding. Should we be required to do so, we will be able to produce these exam papers and grades as evidence to underpin our own classroom assessments and professional judgement, if that is the system the government decide to use next summer.

A copy of the November exam timetable can be found below. Students will need to make sure that they come fully equipped to each exam, e.g. two black biros, pencil, calculator and so on. They should have their equipment in a clear see through bag or pencil case. Mobile phones are not allowed in the examination room.

The timetable does not leave a great deal of time for revision between exams, but that can happen - there have been occasions during previous GCSE periods when there have been one or even two exams on three consecutive days. **Please note that, just as in the “real thing” there is no study leave** – students will be expected to be in lessons when they are not in exams. Absence during this period will not be authorised unless there is a clear medical reason.

In order to have time to discuss results with you and to offer support or advice for any “catch-up” work that needs to take place, we have arranged special evening meeting for parents and carers of Year 11 students on **Tuesday 12th January from 4:30 – 6:30pm**. If we are still under Covid-19 restrictions, this might have to take place via phone or video conferencing but we will let you know in due course. This is an important opportunity to meet with subject teachers to discuss your child’s progress and we hope that as many parents and carers as possible will attend. Please make appointments for this evening via the school office.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Sue Gaston
Head Teacher

Year 11 Exams

Week B	Exam	Time
Monday 23rd November	Block A: Spanish, French, Geography CPLD, Construction	Period 1 and 2
Tuesday 24th November	Science	Period 1 and 2
	Maths	Period 3 and 4
Thursday 26th November	Block B: Geography, History, iMedia, Spanish	Period 1 and 2
	Block C: Animal Care, Drama, History, Triple Science	Period 3 and 4
Friday 27th November	English Language	Period 3 and 4
	Block D: Sport, Computer Science, Geography, Music	Period 5 and 6