



Dear Parent/Carer,

As you will be aware, your child's GCSE examinations begin on the morning of Monday 16 May. Students have been given personalised timetables and the whole school timetable, sent to you in February, can also be found [here](#), on the 'year group letters' page of the school website.

I am writing to you to reiterate or confirm some of the arrangements around GCSE examinations.

Exam timings

Before all morning exams, teachers will run pre-exam support sessions from 8am and the school will provide a free breakfast for students who arrive on time. We ask that you help your child to attend school for this 8am support session and, if they are unable to do so, please ensure they attend school no later than 8.30am. This will ensure that they are able to enter the exam hall on time for exams to start promptly at 9am. We know that most Year 11 students have very good punctuality and attendance and we are grateful for your support in this matter. Lateness to the exam will significantly disadvantage your child and at worst, could mean your child would be denied entrance to the exam.

Most exams take place in the mornings; when students have an exam in the afternoon, these exams begin at 1.30pm. In these instances, students with exams will leave lessons early and attend pre-exam support sessions and eat lunch before the exams.

School attendance and study leave

As you will be aware, students must continue to attend school as usual until Monday 13 June; when exams are not taking place, students must attend their usual scheduled lessons. After 13 June, students will be on study leave. During this time, we will continue to provide some further support in school; further details will be provided in due course.

Equipment

All students have received packs of equipment for the exams. Students should ensure they bring all relevant equipment to exams in a clear pencil case; please ensure your child brings pens and pencils to all exams along with specialist equipment where it is required (e.g. calculator, ruler, protractor, compass, pencil, eraser, etc.). Students should also bring a bottle of water to all exams (with no label), and wear full school uniform.

Preparing for the exams

The work your child does over the next few weeks will contribute significantly towards their final grades and we are grateful for your continued support. Your child must work as hard as they can to ensure they do well; amongst other things, this means focusing and actively participating in lessons, completing homework and revising at home for three hours per day on weekdays, and eight hours per day on weekends/holidays.

We recommend that students revise by creating notes to summarise their learning; use flashcards to test themselves; and answer past paper questions to implement their knowledge. By revising all their subjects and regularly returning to the same topics, students can ensure they are well-prepared for exams. We ask that you help your child to follow a revision timetable, that you ask them questions about their work, support them in being organised, and make sure they are eating and sleeping well.

Results

On 25 August, students will find out their GCSE and BTEC grades. I am confident that if your child does their best over the coming weeks, they will achieve a set of grades with which they will be very pleased.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Greenwood
Vice Principal

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