



Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you with an update on the Year 12 exams, timetabled for the week beginning 6th February.

All of year 12 started the second term with a session to capture their current state of well-being. This was the second survey of the well-being program and allowed us to 'measure' how our year 12 students are progressing through their post 16 academic studies. The overall results suggested our students are still happy (4.1 out of 5) are slowly developing their resilience as well as feeling the benefits of the rewards and recognition strategy launched in September.

However, we know, from pupil voice, that some are finding this half term more stressful than last. One section of the upcoming tutor sessions will focus on a key element of happiness being linked to 'having a purpose' and this is entirely relevant to their upcoming exams. Some in the year group are unhappy and worried about their exams, but in the context of improving their grades and their life choices in 18 months' time, they should be viewed as a real opportunity.

I have shared the results of the student survey with subject leads and they have started to talk about the purpose of the exams in terms of improvement and less about 'testing'.

We know that very few people enjoy exams (very very few), but in the context of preparation for their finals in 2024, they are incredibly useful. I often make reference to MasterChef....the contestants repeatedly try their recipes at home before trying to cook the dish on the program!. I am determined that as part of our well-being work, we focus on building their resilience and get them used to the process of learn, test, review, improve.

All the preparation needed for the assessment week will be set via ShowMyHomeWork and resourced via MS TEAMS. In order to allow you to support your child with preparation, I have included an outline of the topics being assessed at the end of this letter.

The year 12 parents evening is calendared for Thursday 16th March. This will be the ideal time to discuss any queries you may have around the assessment outcomes and progress through the key stage 5 course. There is also the progression information evening for all parents/carers and students in yr 12. This event is the week before the parents evening and is on the 8th March. It is designed to start the process of thinking about Life after Emmbrook. Often securing the end goal adds real purpose to the sixth form journey and can be a key motivational factor.

I wish all of our year 12 students the very best of luck with the upcoming exams. If you are concerned about a specific subject, please contact that teacher directly. If you are concerned that your child is not coping in the build up to the exams, we have support mechanisms in place. Please contact your child's tutor as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely,

P Whitehouse (Assistant Headteacher)





FAQ's

Q) Can/should my child prepare for the assessments?

- A) They should follow the advice/guidance/instructions from their teachers. Use the resources and tasks they have set. They should do as much preparation as the teachers advise them to do

Q) What if my child does badly?

- A) Assessments aren't about doing 'badly'. They tell your child, you and the school the strengths and areas for development. They inform us as to next steps advice.

Q) What happens with the results?

- A) Schools use the information to help us plan better lessons. The outcome of the assessments will also be reported home in the monitoring cycle.

Q) My child can't access SMHW or TEAMS, what should they do?

- a) Ask their tutor for help!! As a matter of urgency.



Name	No. of mid-year exams	Date	Length	Content	Date	Length	Content
Art	1	8/2/23	60 mins	Personal response to 'Buildings and Architecture' 2	9/2/23	60 mins	Personal response to 'Buildings and Architecture' – part 2
Biology	2	6/2/23	30 min	Nucleic acids	9/2/23	30 min	Cell division, diversity and differentiation
Business	2	6/2/23	60 mins	Market, Marketing Mix & strategy	TBC		
Chemistry	2	7/2/23	60 mins	Atomic/electronic structure and Periodicity trends	10/2/23	60 mins	Moles, acids and equations
Computing	2	7/2/23	60 mins	Compression, Encryption, Data Types, Databases	8/2/23	60 mins	Structure, function and types of processors, Input, Output and Storage, Types of programming languages, Web Technologies
Criminology	NEA starting imminently						
Economics	2	8/2/23	60 mins	Supply, Demand, Equilibrium, PED, YED, XED	9/2/23	60 mins	Aggregate supply, aggregate demand, macroeconomic objectives, measurements of macroeconomic performance
English Literature	1	6/2/23	60 mins	The Great Gatsby and Pre 1900 Poetry Anthology			
Further Maths	1	6/2/23	60 mins	All AS further pure topics			
Geography	2	7/2/23	45 mins	Coastal Landscapes	TBC	45 mins	Changing Space, Making Places
Politics	1	6/2/23	45 mins	Democracy and Participation			
History	2	6/2/23	45 mins	Soviet Economic policy '17 – '41	7/2/23	45 mins	The Uprising of June 1953 and its impact
Maths	1	8/2/23	50 mins	Algebra, Quadratics and cubics, Inequalities, Simultaneous Equations, coordinate geometry, trigonometry, differentiation, integration			
PE	1	9/2/23	50 mins	Section A: Applied anatomy and physiology Section B: Skill acquisition Section C: Sport and Society	10/2/23	50 mins	Section A: Biomechanics Section B: Sport Psychology
Physics	2	6/2/23	60 mins	Materials	8/2/23	60 mins	Electricity
Psychology	2	6/2/23	60 mins	Paper 1: Memory, Paper 1: Attachment	9/2/23	60 mins	Paper 1: Social Influence, Paper 2: Research Methods
Sociology	1	7/2/23	60 mins	Paper 1: Culture, identity and socialisation (section A only)			