



Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you with an update on the end of year exams for year 12.

The upcoming end of year exams are scheduled to run from Wednesday 6th July for five school days, up until Tuesday 12th July (inclusive).

The exams are going to provide this year group, not only with the opportunity to get an accurate understanding of their current academic position, but also to experience an exam series run under full JCQ regulations. The exams team are running this exam window and so Mrs Guinn (exams officer) is coordinating the exams series and using a team of external invigilators to staff the exam room(s)

A summary of the JCQ rules is included in the student support guide attached to this email. This document outlines each subject's exam content and can be used to focus revision and preparation. If used in conjunction with lesson time, Teams/SMHW resources and any other revision opportunities, students should be confident as they enter the exams hall.

Despite their superb attitude, conduct and positivity, we are all too aware that this is an unprecedented time and the pressure that students are currently under could be triggering some negative emotions. Well-being is our top concern and we are keen to ensure that every student feels fully supported, not only with the exam process, but also all the other aspects of school life. If you feel your child is struggling, please do not hesitate to contact their tutor or Mr Constable.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our students the very best of luck as they start to complete the next phase of their Sixth Form journey.

If you have any questions around the upcoming exams, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

Yours faithfully,

P Whitehouse (Assistant Headteacher)



End of Year 12 exams FAQ's

Q) How much work should students be doing for the exams?

A) For each hour in the classroom, students should be studying one hour outside of the classroom. This equates to 9 hours per fortnight per subject, or 4-5 hours per week per subject. An hour a day per subject is a good benchmark

Q) What happens if students fail?

A) These exams are a 'half way point' yard stick. Students very rarely hit their targets at this stage. We do not expect students to be producing target grade performance at this stage. If a student achieves more than one 'U' grade, this may be an indication that there are bigger issues which need further investigation. Students causing concern in this way will be invited to a meeting with Mr Constable (as will you)

Q) I want to revise, but don't know how, what should I do?

A) This is a common problem. There are many ways to revise and students need to find what works for them. I have attached a guide to revision to this letter. To very good starting points are:

- 1) Structure revision time – students have a timetable for their working day, have one for the evening/weekend too
- 2) If they don't know what to do, complete past exam questions. There is a huge amount of research which suggests that for maximum gain vs time invested, past papers are the most effective tool

Q) My child seems anxious/stressed, what do I do?

A) Anxiety and stress are a natural reaction and indicate that the upcoming exams are significant. We have many people in school who can help students manage and control anxiety or stress. The most important first step is talking and reaching out for help. One of the key outcomes for students in sitting the end of year exams is to help 'normalize' the exam experience and allow students to build up resilience and make sensible choices if they have a 'fight or flight' reflex.

Q) My child has university ambitions, will these exams impact their UCAS predicted grades?

A) Yes, these exams will be used to guide predictions. Students wishing to apply for university should be having discussions with their tutor and subject teachers to make them aware of the fact they intend to apply and the subject(s) they intend to study further.

Q) When will we know the results of these exams?

A) The results will be released to students as soon as possible in lessons. They will be officially released to you via our monitoring system before the end of term.

Q) I have concerns around a specific subject, what should I do?

A) Contact the Curriculum Leader directly via email. If you would like to discuss an issue further, please contact Mr Constable, Head of Sixth Form.