



Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you with an update on the end of year exams for year 10.

The upcoming end of year exams are scheduled to run from Friday 24th June for seven school days, up until Monday 4th July (inclusive). Please be aware that the art subjects are setting their exam for the 23rd June as they require specialist rooming and equipment.

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 Miss Horne.

I have also included a reminder letter about the resource called GCSEPod. This is a library of over 6,000 'Pods,' 3-5 minute videos designed to deliver knowledge in short bursts. GCSEPod makes learning and revision much more manageable: every Pod is mapped to an exam board, and contains all the right facts, quotes, keywords, dates and annotated diagrams that your child needs for GCSE success – all neatly organised into topics and exam playlists.

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 GCSE 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 10 exams FAQ's

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

A) Students should be structuring their time to allow for in-between 90 and 150 mins of revision each school night. A timetable for afternoon and evening can be really beneficial in providing structure for revision.

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) What is the best way I can support my child?

A) No parent can be an expert in every subject. We know that. The best support comes in the form of providing a suitable working environment, encouraging them with organization and, most importantly, taking an interest in what they're doing. Ask questions (even if you don't know the answers!). Reward their efforts and recognize the work they are doing.

Q) What support is available?

A) There are a number of resources available:

- i) The students support booklet attached to this email
- ii) GCSEPod online resource
- iii) Resources on Teams, ShowMyHomework and Sharepoint sites
- iv) Resources created from lesson time activities
- v) Revision guides – each department can recommend the best guide for their exam board and subject

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.

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 Miss Horne, Head of Year