



Dear Parent/Carer,

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

The final arrangements have now been confirmed and the timetable written. All students will receive a personalised timetable at the beginning of next week. For now, the master timetable is shown below. All of the core subjects are, what are called, 'whole cohort' exams. This means the entire year group are sitting that subject at the same time. For the year 10 exams, the options subjects are shown in option blocks. In order for students to be able to confirm their option block, they need to just look at their timetable. For example 10C/Gg1 is the Geography class in block C.

| <b>Date</b>                           | <b>8.45 start</b>                                 | <b>11.30 start</b>   |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June</b>  | Art (2hr)<br>3D Art (2hr)                         | Art (2hr)<br>3D Art (2hr)  |
| <b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June</b>    | Maths Paper 1 (1hr 30)                            | <b>BLOCK A</b><br>Business (1hr 30)<br>Geography (1hr)<br>History (1hr 20)<br>Music (1hr 30)   |
| <b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June</b>    | Biology (1hr 45)<br>Combined Biology (1hr 15)     | <b>BLOCK B</b><br>Computer Science (1hr 30)<br>French Reading (45 mins)<br>French Writing (1hr)<br>History (1hr 20)<br>Hospitality (1hr 30)<br>PE (1hr 15)<br>RS (1 hr 45) |
| <b>Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June</b>   | English Language (1hr 45)                         | Maths Paper 2 (1hr 30)   |
| <b>Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June</b> | Chemistry (1hr 45)<br>Combined Chemistry (1hr 15) | <b>BLOCK C</b><br>Business (1hr 30)<br>Design (2hr)<br>Drama (1hr 30)<br>French Reading (45 min)<br>French Writing (1hr)<br>Geography (1hr)<br>History (1hr 20)            |
| <b>Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June</b>  | Maths Paper 3 (1hr 30)                            | <b>BLOCK D</b><br>Business (1hr 30)<br>Computer Science (1hr 30)<br>Design (2hr)<br>History (1hr 20)<br>Hospitality (1hr 30)<br>Media (1hr 30)<br>PE (1hr 15)              |
| <b>Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July</b>     | English Literature (1hr 45)                       | French Listening (35 mins)   |
| <b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July</b>     | Physics (1hr 45)<br>Combined Physics (1hr 15)     | Catch up session   |
| <b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July</b>    | Catch up session                                  | Catch up session   |



In order to allow the exams to run smoothly and for students to have the chance to rest, recuperate, drink, eat and toilet in-between each exam, the timetable will be reverted back to the standards Yr 7, 9 and 11 school day for the duration of the exams. I have included the timings in this letter.

We always build in a couple of catch up sessions to our internal exams, just in case of illness. If a student does miss an exam through illness, then they will need to sit the paper in one of the catch-up sessions. Please communicate to the school as early as possible if your child is unable to attend. Clearly, there are no 'catch-up' sessions should public exams be missed.

### **Work experience:**

The vast majority of students are completing their work experience in the week following on from the end of year exams (week beginning the 11<sup>th</sup> July), however, I am aware that a small group of students are undertaking work experience a week earlier. These students will have their physics exam rescheduled for earlier on in the cycle.

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)



## Key exam period information:

### Timings of the school day:

- 8.25-8.45 – tutor time
- 8.50-9.50 – period 1
- 9.55–10.55 – period 2
- 10.55-11.20 – Break – food available in the canteen
- 11.20-12.20 – period 3
- 12.25-13.25 – period 4
- 13.25-13.50 – lunch
- 13.55-14.55 – period 5

### Routine for the day:

- Arrive at school – head to form
- Session 1 exam or go to lesson 1
- Finish exam you MUST go to lesson 2
- Break 1 – food and fresh air
- Session 2 exam or go to lesson 3
- Finish exam you MUST go to lesson 4
- Lunch
- Lesson 5
- End of school day as per normal

### Equipment list:

Pencil case - Must be clear, with no wording on

#### For every exam your pencil case should include:

At least 2 black biro pens

HB pencil

Ruler

Rubber

Sharpener

Calculator (remove for non-calc maths paper) – case must be removed and left in your bag

Protractor

Pair of compass

Highlighter

### JCQ the big 5' rules:

#### The exams team will tell you all of this. But, just so you are clear:

- 1) Your mobile phone must be switched off. It must be in your bag and in the secure area. If you have it on your person, even if it is off, you will be disqualified from the exams.
- 2) Your watch must be switched off. It must be in your bag and in the secure area. If you have it on your person, even if it is off, you will be disqualified from the exams. Even if it is not a smart watch
- 3) Your drink must be water. It must be in a clear bottle with the label removed
- 4) There is to be no communication once you're in the bag drop off. This includes verbal (ie talking) and non-verbal (eg making eye contact once the exam has started)
- 5) You must write in black ink



## 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