



Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you with an update on the Year 10 exams, timetabled for next week.

We are now over half way through year 10 and the time seems to be passing incredibly quickly. In terms of their Key Stage 4 courses, we are now around 30% of the way through.

It is not always easy to decide when the first time to make a formal grading judgement is. Too early and the grades can cause alarm, too late and the chance to put in remedial steps may have passed. Half way through year 10 seems the most suitable compromise.

We know that very few people enjoy exams (very very few), but in the context of preparation for their finals in 2023, they are incredibly useful.

All the preparation needed for the assessment week will be set via Show My HomeWork and resourced via MS TEAMS. In order to allow you to support your child with preparation, below is an outline of the topics being assessed

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 in school. Please contact your child's tutor or Miss Horne as a matter of urgency. The NHS have some great supporting advice for parents. This can be found at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/children-and-young-adults/advice-for-parents/help-your-child-beat-exam-stress/>

Likewise, there are some great resources for students at:

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/coping-with-life/exam-stress/>

Yours sincerely,

P Whitehouse (Assistant Headteacher)



Subject	Date	Length	Content
Art & Design	10A/Ar1 14th&15th 10B/Ar1 16th&17th	120 mins over 2 lessons	Assessment Objective 4 personal outcome. Finished grid piece based on Peter Blake
Art & Design 3DD	10C Dd1 17th & 18th	120 mins over 2 lessons	Assessment Objective 3 developing ideas. Completing 2 designs for mechanical/anatomy outcome
Biology*	10x1 17/3/22 JTR	20 mins	Non-communicable diseases and photosynthesis
Business Studies	10D/Bs1 16/3/22	60 mins	Paper 1 content to date, pupils have a revision list of topics
	10A/Bs1 16/3/22	60 mins	Paper 1 content to date, pupils have a revision list of topics
	10C /Bs1 17/3/22	60 mins	Paper 1 content to date, pupils have a revision list of topics
	10C /Bs2 17/3/22	60 mins	Paper 1 content to date, pupils have a revision list of topics
Chemistry*	10x1 17/3/22 JTR	20 mins	Chemical calculations
Classical Civilisation	16/3/22	50 mins	Religion and Faith - topics covered so far
Computer Science	16/03/2022	50 mins	Systems Architecture, Memory and Storage, Units, Data Storage Programming Fundamentals
Design	Check SMHW		
Drama	15/03/22	60 mins	Section A - General theatre knowledge and Section B - Noughts and Crosses - 4 and 8 Mark Questions
English Language	w/b 14/03/22	60 mins	Creative writing
English Literature	Check SMHW		
Geography	16/3/22 BMC and PWH, 15/3/22	30 mins	Global Hazards
History	w/b 14/03/22	50 mins	Section B on Crime and Punishment
Mathematics	w/c 14.03.2021 Monday 14th period 3 or Thursday 17th period 2	55 mins	Set 1-3, 2-1, 2-2 and 3-1 -Foundation Paper 1 Set 1-1 and 1-2 Higher paper 1
Media Studies	16/3/22	55 mins	Media Language and Representations in Advertising, including Film
MFL French	w/c 14/02/22	60 mins	Listening, reading & writing
Music	14/03/22	30 mins	Listening Assessment - Baroque/Classical Periods
	16/03/2022	5 mins	Solo Performance
PE (GCSE)	Check SMHW		
Physics*	10x1 17/3/22 JTR	20 mins	Check SMHW
Religious Studies	Check SMHW		
Marketing and Enterprise	Check SMHW		
Sport Science	Check SMHW		
Creative Media Production	Check SMHW		
Hospitality	10B/HP1 Written 16/3/22 Practical 17/3/22 KRI 10D/HP1 Written 16/3/22 Practical 21 KRI	Written 30 mins Practical 60 mins	Written: Hospitality and Catering in Action: Job Roles and the Industry Practical: Seasonal Soup - Knife Skills, Taste and Adaptation, Oven Safety, Clean Working Practices
Science (double)	10x2 17/3/22 ASL	60 mins	Forces, non-Communicable diseases, respiration and chemical calculations
Science (double)	10x3a 18/3/22 VFO	60 mins	Forces, non-Communicable diseases, respiration and chemical calculations
Science (double)	10x3b 17/3/22 KSM	60 mins	Forces, non-Communicable diseases, respiration and chemical calculations
Science (double)	10x4a 17/3/22 VFO	60 mins	Forces, non-Communicable diseases, respiration and chemical calculations
Science (double)	10x4b 17/3/22 JCU	60 mins	Forces, non-Communicable diseases, respiration and chemical calculations

* (conducted alongside physics and chemistry)



Mid-year exams FAQ's

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

A) This is a hard question to answer as it varies based on individual circumstances. Please follow the guidance laid out by each subject area as they set revision tasks on SMHW. If you feel your child is being set too much (or too little), please contact your child's form tutor or head of year.

Q) What happens if students fail?

A) These exams are timed to give a good indication of Key Stage 4 current achievement. They are completed with enough of the course delivered to give a good indication as to how the student will achieve in the final exams but also with enough time left to 'put right', any areas of concern. Students rarely hit their targets at this stage. We do not expect students to be producing target grade performance at this stage. Students often move up one grade or more in-between now and the summer exams.

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. Two 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.

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 in term 3.1

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.