



Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you with an update on the Year 10 exams, timetabled for the week beginning 30th January.

We are now close to 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 2024, 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. Please contact your child's tutor or Miss Cairns as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely,

P Whitehouse (Assistant Headteacher)



Subject	Date(s)	Length	Content
Fine Art	Thursday 2nd February	1 hour	Personal response to the work of Dan Hillier AO1 & AO4
Biology	10x1.1 - Feb 1st, 10x1.2 - Jan 31st	20 min	Preventing and treating disease and non-communicable diseases
Business Studies	TBC		
Chemistry	10x1.1 - Feb 1st, 10x1.2 - Jan 31st	20 min	Chemical changes
Classical Civilisation	NA	NA	NA
Computer Science	10A 10B 10D 1st Feb, 10C 2nd Feb	1 hour	Architecture of the CPU, CPU performance, Embedded Systems, Primary Storage, Data Storage - numbers (conversions, binary shifts). Programming fundamentals: variables, constants, operators, inputs, outputs and assignments, the three basic programming constructs used to control the flow of a program: - Sequence - Selection - Iteration (count-and condition-controlled loops), Data types
Design Tech	10B/DG1: Tuesday 31st January 10D/DG1: Wednesday 01st February	1 hour	Core: Materials and their properties, Renewable energy and sustainability, area, manufacturing processes, Forces, quality control, client and user, anthropometric data, Percentages, Health and safety in the workshop, 3D drawings and modelling.
Drama	Thursday 2nd February	1 Hour	Section C: Response to Live Theatre
English Lang	NA	NA	NA
English Lit	3/2/2023	1 hour	A Christmas Carol essay (30 marks)
Geography	10A and 10C 30th Jan, 10D on 1st Feb	30 minutes	Sustaining Ecosystems and Dynamic Development
History	10A (1,2 & 3) Monday 30th, 10C Monday 30th, 10D Wednesday 1st Feb.	1 hour	Crime and punishment through time - Section B of the paper.
Mathematics	Monday 30th Jan and Tuesday 31st Jan	50 mins	GCSE Maths including Number, Algebra, Ratio, Probability, Data Handling and Geometry. Specific Content for each class will be available on Satchel One (Showmyhomework)
Media Studies	Wednesday 1st February for both classes	55 Minutes	Media Language, Context and Representation in Advertising and Magazines
MFL Spanish	w/c 30/01/22	1.5 hours	Free Time; Me, my family and friends."
Music	Wed 1st Feb	55 mins	Treble/bass clef reading and writing; identifying music in different time signatures; note names and lengths; tempo and dynamics Italian markings/names; articulation; melodic dictation. Prologue/Little Shop of Horrors song from 'Little Shop of Horrors'. Rock Music of the 1960s/70s.
PE (GCSE)	Thursday 2nd February	55 minutes	Muscular skeletal = Bones, functions of the skeleton, muscles, antagonistic pairs, synovial joints and types of movement. Health and fitness = health and fitness definitions and the relationship between them, sedentary lifestyles, obesity and somatotypes. Physical training = components of fitness and fitness tests.
Physics	10x1.1 - Feb 1st, 10x1.2 - Jan 31st	20 min	Molecules and Matter
Religious Studies		45mins	Christian Practices & Christian beliefs about God
Marketing & Enterprise			
Creative Media Production	Thursday 2nd February	1hr	Component 3: Create a Media Product in Response to a Brief. Activity 1 (only): Complete an Ideas Log on the development of your chosen idea for a media product in response to the brief. (Guided questions)
Hospitality	10B/HP1: Tuesday 31st Jan 10C/HP1: Monday 30th Jan	1hr	Unit 1: The Hospitality and catering Industry: Commercial and non commercial sectors, the kitchen brigade, Contracts, job roles and responsibilities, Accidents and risk assessment, HACCP, EHO and food safety.
Science (double)	10x2.1 and 3.2 - Jan 31st, 10x2.2, 3.1 and 3.3 - Feb 1st	1hr	Chemical changes, Molecules and matter, Preventing and treating disease and non-communicable diseases



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 2.2

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 Cairns, Head of year.