

11th February 2022

Year 11 Exams Information

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you know, the Government has confirmed that exams will go ahead this summer and, earlier this week, it announced a range of measures designed to make the assessments fairer for students who have been affected by the pandemic.

Amongst the measures is '**advance information**' about each subject which is being made public by the exam boards. [We have included a link to all of this information here](#). The information varies by subject but may include, for example, a list of key topics or sections of text that will be included in exam papers. In addition, students will be able to take some notes into exams, such as formulae sheets. As you would expect, it will not be possible to determine specific questions from this information, but it will help students to target their revision over the weeks ahead. [Here is a link to some frequently asked questions that students might have](#). There have also been changes to the usual exam timetable, which will be less condensed than in other years. The timetable will shortly be on our website and app.

The government has also said that grading will be more generous in the summer, to take account of the disruption to students' education over the past two years. Grade boundaries will be set at a midway point between 2019 and 2021, meaning more students will receive higher grades than was the case before the pandemic, while bringing grades closer into line with previous levels.

Now we have the certainty and information we need, and our focus is on giving as much support as we possibly can to our students as they prepare for their exams. Over the coming weeks, we will be helping to reinforce their knowledge and skills so they feel confident and able to perform to their best on the day. We have outlined these approaches below:

Form Time Tutoring

All Year 11 students are currently receiving extra tutoring in core subjects during form time. This is delivered by subject specialists, teaching carefully selected topics based in assessment data.

PETXI

PET-Xi is a high-energy training specialist who's multi award-winning teams work tirelessly to make a difference to people's lives, firing up their minds with engaging and positive learning experiences designed to help school students to achieve their target grades. Many students have benefited from these subject specific sessions already with more planned in March.

Coach Bright

Coach Bright is a company that works with schools to tackle educational disadvantage. Starting on 17th February 2022, 30 students will benefit from weekly after school tutoring with a focus on improving attainment and academic focus. These sessions run every Thursday 3.15pm-4.30pm.

Opportunity Day

On Opportunity Day, Year 11 students were given time to work with their subject leaders to work on outstanding coursework and extra revision for examinations.

Masterclasses

Before examinations, students have the opportunity to take part in masterclasses: this is two hours of intense revision for that subject conducted by the subject leader.

Half Term 'English Enhancement'

During half term, the Academy will be hosting students for 'English Enhancement' sessions. Again, the Academy will communicate with those selected and will be conducted over the 22nd and 23rd February.

'Walking, Talking, Mocks'

This is the opportunity for students to complete an official mock examination with their teacher's expertise and guidance. This allows the teacher to deconstruct misconceptions and give them confidence on how to approach each topic in the paper. These are due to commence on Monday 14th February 2022.

Mock Examinations

This is an opportunity for students to practice for their real exams, under exam conditions, utilising past papers. This will also allow departments to identify and address gaps in student knowledge ahead of the GCSE examination series in May and June. These will take place from Monday, 14th March; to Thursday, 24th March.

While academic preparation is critical, it is also very important that we support students' welfare during the next few months. We know exams can be a source of anxiety for some young people and we will devote time during Personal Development lessons to building their resilience and sharing techniques to support their wellbeing and help them stay positive.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor, [Ms Ivey](#) or [Mrs Cross](#) by email.

Kind regards



Mr J Barton – Head of School