

December 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

KS3 Exams in English, Maths and Science

Our Year 7, 8 and 9 students will be sitting exams in English, Maths and Science during January and February and these will assess students' knowledge and understanding of the content they have covered to date in these subjects. These KS3 exams will take place as detailed below (the length of each exam is in brackets):

	English	Maths	Science
Year 7	w/c 6 th – 10 th January (1 hour)*	Friday 24 th January (8:45am – 10:15am)	Friday 24 th January (11:15am – 12:15pm)
Year 8	w/c 6 th – 10 th January (1 hour)*	Wednesday 29 th January (8:45am – 10:15am)	Wednesday 29 th January (11:15am – 12:15pm)
Year 9	w/c 6 th – 10 th January (1 hour)*	Tuesday 4 th February (8:45am – 9:45am)	Tuesday 4 th February (11:15am – 12:15pm)

** Students will complete 2 revision sessions in their English lessons before completing their exam in the final lesson of that week. The specific day/period is different for the various classes within each year group.*

English exams will take place in classrooms and are earlier than Maths and Science so that students can be assessed as close as possible to the end of their unit of work. Maths and Science exams will take place in the Sports Hall as a whole year group, where students will have a specific seat, details of which will be given out after the Christmas holidays via form tutors.

Whilst these exams are internal, rather than the externally assessed ones that are taken at the end of Year 11 and Year 13, it is nevertheless important that students take these assessments seriously and engage fully in revising at home and in all the revision activities their teachers will deliver after Christmas in lessons. Revision really helps students consolidate learning, builds their confidence and embeds the core knowledge they will need for future success in these subjects. It is also a skill that needs lots of practice for students to become efficient at revising.

These exams are also an excellent opportunity for students to become more accustomed at completing assessments in formal conditions, something we want them to feel confident and relaxed about later on in their school careers.

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At the same time, we must stress that we do not want students to get unnecessarily worried about the exams - and we ask for your support here. Above all else, the exams are a valuable opportunity for teachers to assess the areas students have grasped well and those where further consolidation may still be required. It really is not the end of the world if an exam does not go as well as expected.

Revision at home is important, but it is equally important not to over-do it. We suggest that an average of an hour of revision per night during the two-week period before these exams ought to be plenty enough for students to be well-prepared, assuming that they've had excellent attendance to school and have been working hard in lessons. We will be asking other subjects to try not to set homework during this time.

Please note that students are not expected to revise over the Christmas holidays; they have worked hard this term and should enjoy their well-earned rest. For the English exams during the first week back, the work they've completed during the Autumn term, as well as the revision they will complete in lessons that week will adequately prepare students to complete these assessments.

For our Year 7's in particular, revising for assessments may still be a relatively unfamiliar process. To help you support your child with their revision, you can find information about the content the exam will cover, suggested revision activities and where to go for more help on our website (under *Academic/Revision/KS3*) from tomorrow (Friday) and students will also receive this information in a KS3 Revision Guide early next week, which Form Tutors will go through with them. Once papers have been completed, marked and moderated, we will report your child's percentage score on each exam, as well as the average (mean) percentage and the 10th percentile score (top 10%) for the year group. The latter two of these will be reported on the website under *Academic/Examinations & Assessment*.

For any subject-specific queries, please contact your child's English, Maths or Science teacher. For any other queries relating to the exams, please get in touch with your child's Head of Year (Year 7: Mrs C Worrall, Year 8: Mr T Scott, Year 9: Mrs J Wagstaff) or myself.

May I finally take this opportunity to wish you and your family a wonderful Christmas and New Year and a well-deserved break.

Yours faithfully



N. Dixon (Miss)
Assistant Headteacher