

May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **KS3 June Exams – English, Maths, Science, Humanities and Languages**

As mentioned in the letter accompanying your child's recent progress report, our Year 7, 8 and 9 students will be sitting their summer exams in English, Maths, Science, Humanities and Languages between 8<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> June. The exams will assess students' knowledge and understanding of the content they have covered this academic year in these subjects.

Exams will take place in classrooms with class teachers for each particular subject. Students entitled to access arrangements will sit their exams in their normal classroom, with the exception of those students entitled to a 1:1 reader or scribe, in which case exams will take place in a separate venue to ensure they can access their support in an appropriate environment.

All students will receive an individual exam timetable with their specific exam dates and rooms on – these will be given out over the next couple of days by form tutors. You can also find a link to the exam dates in the KS3 Revision Guide (see below) and on the website. If by Monday, your child has not received their exam timetable, please contact your child's form tutor (contact details on the school website).

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 them seriously and engage fully in revising at home and in all the revision activities their teachers will deliver 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. We are acutely aware that school closures as a result of Covid have meant some year groups in KS3 have sat very few or even no formal exams in school and as a result we will be doing as much as we possibly can to guide students through the process and support their revision.

**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. In the current climate, these exams will also be particularly useful to help teachers identify any gaps in learning that may have developed during the school closures and help them to address these with students. However, 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 90 minutes of revision per night during the 2 or 3 weeks before these exams will be plenty for students to be well-prepared, assuming that they've been working hard in lessons. We will be asking other subjects to try not to set

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homework during this time, and asking that English, Maths, Science, Humanities and Languages homework relate directly to the exams to support students' revision. Please do take the time to help your child prepare for these exams. Some things you could do to support them are:

- Reassure them about the exams – we all want them to do their best but if they go wrong it is not the end of the world;
- Read through the KS3 Revision Guide together to understand what is expected of them in each exam and recommendations about revision. Encourage them to talk to you about different subjects and topics;
- Talk to your child about any subjects they are more worried about and consider creating a little more time for these subjects in their revision plan. Encourage them to speak to their teachers if they are worried or have questions;
- Create a revision timetable (template is on the website under *Academic/Revision*) – aim for 90 minutes per day – this 90 minutes of revision is best completed as 3 x 30 min blocks in 3 different subjects, with a break in between the blocks;
- Sit and access the linked websites from the Revision Guide and encourage your child to complete the specific tasks on these websites;
- Test your child on what they've learnt by asking them questions based on the content in the Knowledge Organisers or any other recommended techniques from the Revision Guide;
- Read the English set texts again with your child and talk through the themes;
- Encourage your child to pin up key definitions and concepts on post-it notes around their room; and
- Think about creating a separate folder for revision materials, revision notes, revision quizzes and exam questions.

For our Year 7s in particular, revising for assessments may still be a relatively unfamiliar process. To help you support your child with their revision in Year 7, 8 or 9, please use the KS3 Revision Guide that students will have received by Monday. This booklet contains the topics the exam will cover, suggested revision activities and where to go for more help. If your child loses their booklet, this can be accessed electronically via the [school website](#). Any absent students will have their copy posted. Once papers have been completed, marked and moderated, we will report your child's percentage score on each exam. We will also report the average (mean) percentage and the 10<sup>th</sup> percentile score (top 10%) for the year group – these will be reported on the website.

For any subject-specific queries, please contact your child's teacher for that subject. For any other more overarching queries relating to the exams, please get in touch with your child's Head of Year (Year 7: Mrs C Worrall, Year 8: Ms H Crowder, Year 9: Mr T Scott).

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish your child the best of luck with their exams and encourage them to speak with subject teachers, their Form Tutor, Head of Year or Student Services if they have any worries or questions.

Yours faithfully



Ms N Dixon  
Assistant Headteacher