

December 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

KS3 January Exams – English, Maths and Science

In the 3rd week back after Christmas (16th – 20th January), Year 7, 8 and 9 students will be sitting exams in English, Maths and Science, and these will assess knowledge and understanding of the content students have covered this academic year along with some consolidation of older work for Year 8 and 9.

Exams will take place in classrooms with class teachers for English, Maths and Science. All students will be informed of the specific lesson their exam is taking place in by their class teacher after the Christmas holidays and we will also publish this information on the school website and send to parents via the School Gateway app.

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. The work they've completed during the Autumn term, as well as the revision they will complete in lessons and at home during the first two weeks back will adequately prepare students to complete these assessments.

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 after Christmas. Revision 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 more formal conditions, something we want them to feel confident and relaxed about later on in their school careers. **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. These exams will also be particularly useful to help teachers identify any gaps in learning that may have developed for students this term and help them 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 weeks before these exams** will be plenty for students to be well-prepared, assuming that they've been working hard in lessons and completing all homework. We will be asking other subjects to try not to set homework during this time, and asking that English, Maths and Science homework relates directly to the exams in order to support revision.

Please do take the time to help your child prepare for these exams. Some things you could do to support them are:

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- 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 each subject and relevant 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 available on the website under *Academic/Revision/KS3*) – 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;
- 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. Students also have end-of-year exams in the last half-term so it will be useful to start gathering this together and adding to it over the course of the year.

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 receive in the first week back after Christmas. This booklet contains the topics the exam will cover, suggested revision activities and where to go for more help. 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 10th percentile score (top 10%) for the year group.

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: Miss N Beck, Year 8: Mrs J Wagstaff, Year 9: Mr W Barnett) or myself.

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