

May 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

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

Our Year 7, 8 and 9 students will be sitting their summer exams in English, Maths, Science, Humanities and Languages between 8th and 21st June. The exams will assess students' knowledge and understanding of the content they have covered this academic year in these subjects. An exam timetable for each year group can be accessed here for [Year 7](#), [Year 8](#) and [Year 9](#). To find your child's specific exam dates on these, you need their subject class codes which can be found on their own timetable. Exams will take place in classrooms with class teachers during normal timetabled lessons for that subject. Students entitled to access arrangements will sit their exams in their normal classroom with the support of either class teacher or class teacher and teaching assistant.

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 suggest. Revision really helps students consolidate learning, builds confidence, and embeds the core knowledge they will need for future success. There is no such thing as being 'bad at revision' – it is a skill that needs lots of practice for students to become efficient at it and it takes time – the main thing is to persevere and use the techniques recommended by subject teachers which are tried and tested, and often also supported by research into memory and retrieval.

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. **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 simply a valuable opportunity for teachers to assess the areas students have grasped well and those where teachers might need to further consolidate learning in future lessons. 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 next week and after May half-term** will be plenty for students to be well-prepared, assuming that they have been working hard in lessons and are completing any revision activities that are being set as homework. These 90 minutes of revision should be broken down into 3 periods of 30 minutes, in 3 different subjects. We will be asking other subjects to try not to set 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;

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- Create a revision timetable (template is on the website under *Academic/Revision/KS3*) – aim for 90 minutes per day – this is best completed as 3 x 30-minute blocks in 3 different subjects, with a good break in between them;
- Think about creating a separate folder for revision materials, revision notes, revision quizzes and exam questions;
- 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;
- Help your child complete any revision tasks on Show My Homework for the subjects they are being examined in and encourage them to talk to you about different subjects and topics;
- Test your child on what they have learnt by asking them questions based on the content in the Knowledge Organisers or any other resources provided by subject teachers;
- Read the English set texts again with your child and talk through the themes; and
- Encourage your child to pin up key definitions and concepts on post-it notes around their room.

Once papers have been completed, marked, and moderated, we will report your child's percentage score on each exam along with progress report 3. 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 over-arching 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).

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