



3rd December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Sixth Form Mock Exam Week: Thursday 6th January – Wednesday 12th January

We are writing to confirm arrangements for the Sixth Form mock exam week, which is taking place during the first week back in school after the Christmas holidays. Students will all be in school as normal on Wednesday 5th January, with exams and study leave starting the following day (Thursday 6th January).

Exams will be set across all subjects in order to allow students and staff to gain the most realistic understanding of their progress through their courses so far. We have stressed to students since the start of the year the difference in expectation from GCSE to Sixth Form and this exam week is an essential element of tracking how well students have met these expectations. Subjects which are more focused on coursework, Art and Photography will be using lesson time, as soon as normal teaching resumes from 13th January, for their practical assessments. There are also formal external exams in Applied Business and Health and Social Care, where the modules count towards their final grade, and both Years 12 and 13 have been given their timetable for these already.

In order to succeed in these exams, detailed revision is absolutely essential and, with Christmas being such a busy holiday, it is particularly important that students finish term with a clear plan for revision already in place. Last minute revision will not be enough to allow students to succeed at this level. A key reason for planning ahead before term finishes is to ensure that students build in both periods of revision and time to relax during the festive season. All students have been issued with a revision planner and a guide to help them prepare, with tutors going through these resources over the next two weeks.

Students will be on study leave throughout the five-day exam period (Thursday 6th – Wednesday 12th January inclusive) and will only need to attend school for their scheduled exams, although they can of course revise at school if they prefer. The exam timetable is split into two blocks: the morning session starts at 8.40am and the afternoon at 12.30pm and students need to come to the Common Room to register at these times. These are the times when students will be able to come into school or leave for their study leave. The timetable will be published and shared in the week beginning 6th December.

If students are absent for an exam or do not pass it, they will need to re-sit the exam after school in the week beginning Monday 17th January. We ask for your support in making individual transport arrangements should this be the case for your child. Monitoring reports will be published for both Years 12 and 13 at the end of Term 3 and Parents' Evening for Year 12 is on Thursday 10th March.

As far as examinations next summer are concerned, the government has published details and we have included a link to one of our examination board's websites where this is highlighted for everyone for information: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/2021-2022-exam-changes/subject-changes-for-2022>. If there is anything you would like to discuss further at this point, please do not hesitate to contact the Sixth Form team.

Yours sincerely

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Sixth Form Director

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