

Dear Parent/Carer,

We hope you and your families are well.

As you will be aware the Government have announced that the GCSE examination series is scheduled to go ahead in the summer of 2021 with some adjustments to examinations. Examinations provide an indication of where pupils are up to with their learning and it is vital that we give pupils opportunities to experience exam situations.

The first series of **Year 11 mock examinations commence on the 23rdth November**. Year 11 will sit examinations over a period of two weeks. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, to support pupils we have also made some adjustments to our examinations process and papers. Examinations will take place in classrooms as opposed to the sports hall and pupils will be supervised in exam conditions by their teachers.

Subject teachers will be using the outcomes of the mock examinations to establish where your child is currently at in relation to their knowledge and understanding, to identify any gaps in learning and to inform future teaching and support strategies.

Covid-19 has presented significant challenges and we are aware that the necessity for pupils and staff to isolate during the academic year has led to concern. We are supporting pupils to alleviate these concerns and only ask that they work to the best of their ability in these circumstances so that we have their best work available.

Pupils who are in school

For pupils who are in school, extra lessons are running at lunchtimes and after school to assist their preparation and catch-up on lost learning. Pupils can also access the Year 11 study base in Homebase 4 until 4pm if they want a quiet place to study.

Pupils who are self-isolating

If your child is isolating at home we are aware that they will be anxious about missing out on face to face teaching in school. Staff are fully aware of this and are working hard to ensure lesson materials and additional resources are available on the Google Classroom. These include some bespoke revision lessons and live sessions presented by staff which are designed specifically for pupils who are at home to support exam preparation. If they are well enough, pupils should aim to follow their normal school timetable whilst at home.

If your child is required to isolate during the examination period, but is well enough to work, they will be able to complete the majority of their examinations online within a specified time period and submit them to their subject teachers. Additional information about this process is enclosed. Notifications and examination papers will be provided via the Year 11 Self isolating Google classroom (code b27crog) and we will also text parents to remind you of examination dates and times. Please note that this will not apply to all subjects and some will be completed when pupils return to school e.g Spanish listening and music.

This period will prove to be both demanding and rewarding and will help to prepare Year 11 for the reality of the summer examination season. Exam time can be challenging for pupils in normal circumstances and pupils will require the support of both school and home in order to perform at their best. You will know your child best but there are various ways you can help at examination time.

- Encourage resilience and a growth mindset – I can and I will! **I AM AMAZING!**
- Encourage them to seize the opportunity to learn whether at home or in school.
- Good communication-check revision plan, exam timetable, planner, mood.
- Make learning a routine- set times for revision at home, build in time for breaks, rest, games console etc
- Discuss learning and progress and celebrate success.
- Tough love! There is no GCSE in 'FIFA, FORTNITE, FACEBOOK or INSTAGRAM!'
- There may be times when you need to take the game console away..

Additional supporting information and a list of useful websites are available in the Year 11 Handbook which can be found on the Year 11 Google Classroom (code: 7tcdmmy). <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize> is a generic website, which contains information, revision and tests on a range of subjects. This also has information on how you can support your child during the examination period.

The examination timetable has been issued to pupils, posted on the Year 11 Google classroom and a copy is enclosed with this letter along with some useful advice. It also available on the school website. Please encourage your child to maximise their learning and support them with their preparation. If you require any additional information or support please contact us at school.

We know that Covid-19 has led to an extended period of uncertainty but we would like to commend our Year 11 pupils on their approach to their studies to date. This is a crucial time for Year 11 pupils and it is essential that they continue to apply commitment to their learning whether at home or in school, in order to give themselves the best possible chance of success.

We wish all our Year 11 pupils' success in their forthcoming examinations.

If you require any additional support or advice do not hesitate to contact us at school.

Yours sincerely

Miss L Morrison

Miss L Morrison
Assistant Headteacher

Mrs S Bannon

Mrs S Bannon
Head of Year 11