



November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 11 Trial Exams : Monday 20 November – Friday 1 December

This morning in assembly students have been given detailed instructions about their trial exams which begin later this month, and reminded about our expectations of behaviour, equipment, uniform and attendance. As this year group have made such an excellent start to Year 11, we have, after much deliberation, decided to grant them study leave during the Trial Exams period.

Arrival in school and how study leave works

All students must be in school by 8.30am on each morning that they have an exam (which is almost every day of the exam period).

Students will be able to leave the premises and return home to study after sitting their final paper each day. They should return directly home, as the purpose of study leave is to enable them to complete further revision and to recharge in their home environment. Students should not be loitering in the town.

Please note that in the event that students have an exam during session 1 (first thing), no exam during the second session (between break and lunch) and then another during session 3 (after lunch), **they will be expected to remain in school to study between their two exams**, and be in the supervised study area allocated for that session. Study areas will be notified and clearly displayed each day to students.

It has been, and will continue to be, made clear to students that study leave is a **privilege**, which may be withdrawn if they fail to meet expectations in terms of behaviour or uniform.

Access arrangements

Access arrangements will be in place for those students who are entitled to them. Mrs Dolt, our Exams Officer, has met with them following the Year 11 trials assembly today. **They should go directly to Chapel at the start of the first day of exams** to await their instructions for the day.

Equipment

Please support your child by ensuring they have a full set of equipment which they must bring to each of their exams:

- A clear pencil case
- 2 black pens, a pencil, ruler and eraser
- Pencil sharpener
- Scientific calculator
- Protractor
- Compass

Only clear water bottles may be taken into the exam hall. Students are also reminded that mobile phones and **watches of any kind** are not permitted in the exam hall under exam regulations.

Preparing for the trials

To prepare for their trial examinations, students should be continuing to work through an independent revision timetable at home. We would suggest at least two hours per day on home-learning and revision during this time. Guidance has been given by teachers in class and via Google Classroom around what topics to cover as well as the topic list sent home. If students find constructing a revision timetable and working through it challenging, there is help and support available in our supervised study session, Session 6, in the LRC, Monday to Thursday, 3.20-4.20pm. Mr McDonald and Mr Roberts are available to help with revision during these sessions. Session 6 does not run during the trials period itself.

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement at home; the trial exams are an important opportunity for students to practise navigating the exam and access arrangement protocols, and to assess the progress made across the GCSE course in advance of the final examinations next summer.

Yours sincerely



Mrs R Kingston
Deputy Head Teacher



Mr C McDonald
Head of Year 11