

20th October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

You may already be aware of the government's recent announcement of their intention to proceed with the 2021 Examination series for Year 11 students, which is in contrast to the approach taken by Scotland. They have made some changes to the forthcoming examination series in recognition of the loss of face-to-face teaching time, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The changes are as follows:

- Most examinations will now take place three weeks later than usual, with the Summer exam series scheduled to commence from 7th June 2020 for almost all GCSE, Vocational and Technical qualifications, and end on 2nd July.
- One GCSE English exam paper and one GCSE Maths paper will be scheduled before the Summer half term.
- GCSE Results day will consequently happen at a slightly later than usual time on Friday 27th August.

Obviously we have no way of being certain at this stage whether these examinations will definitely go ahead and it is still important that students are preparing thoroughly for their mock examinations and any subject assessments as these would inform Centre Assessed Grade decisions were the government, at a later date, to choose to resort back this approach.

We are committed to supporting Year 11 and are striving to support them in the best ways possible to overcome the unique challenges they are facing. There is a consensus amongst teaching colleagues that one of the best ways to support Year 11 is by offering them additional lessons for all of their examined subjects, which will go some way to redressing the loss of face-to-face teaching time that occurred in Year 10.

On their return from half term (w/c 2nd November) Year 11 will be commencing their in class mock exams. After which time we will be running a comprehensive series of period 6 lessons that will provide an opportunity for students to catch up on the lost teaching time in their subject. We deem these period 6 lessons compulsory, as all students have experienced the same disruption to their learning, and many subjects intend to cover previously untaught curriculum content.

The period 6 lessons will be added to your child's timetable, and their new timetables will be reissued during their first week back after half term. The period 6 lessons will commence from Monday 9th November and will provisionally run up until February half term. The period 6 sessions are scheduled for Monday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons- 3.30- 4.30 for all Year 11 students and there will be an additional Period 6 session on Wednesday afternoons from 3:30-4:30 for students studying Triple Science.

Transport arrangements have been made for students who usually require it, so this should not prove a barrier to attendance.

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Please be aware that we are exploring other supportive measures to further assist Year 11 including a form time intervention program for English and Maths, subject specific catch up sessions during the holidays as well as potentially registering some students onto the national tutoring program launched by the government. We will endeavour to keep you informed of these developments as they occur.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Newstead', written in a cursive style.

Mr S Newstead
Vice Principal