

3 May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Y11 Exams Summer Term 2024

These final few weeks sees the end of what has possibly been the most challenging time of secondary school for Year 11 and they have risen to this challenge brilliantly! Having undertaken two sets of mocks, received mock results, finished coursework and embarked on their revision for their final exams, many have felt the pressure of this important season in their school lives and many have responded incredibly well to this pressure; their teachers and I are immensely proud of them and would like to congratulate them for their hard work, resilience, and great attitude to learning. Please extend this message to them as they near their final day of school on **Friday 24 May (final day arrangements to follow)**. There's still a lot to look forward to, including the graduate hoodies and the Year 11 Prom on Friday 28 June!

Exam preparation and revision

It is important that Year 11s find a healthy and productive balance between exam preparation and rest as we move closer to the written papers. I recognise that this will look different for every student but please may I remind you of the advice given at the recent 'Power to Perform' event which took place on Tuesday 26 March:

- Follow a revision schedule; this should include planned times for different subjects (with 40-60 minutes allotted to a specific subject / topic).
- Use the RED Review strategies that you have been taught in your lessons, guided through in form time, practised with Michele Miller, and available on the Year 11 RED Review Google Classroom.

Key to successful revision will be creating/sticking to a routine and working in a dedicated work space. Whilst this work space can be in any part of the house, I would recommend a place where distractions can be kept away (e.g. away from television and a place for phones to be away) and where there can be some accountability. Students revise best when they are committed to doing something specific and can be checked on.

Many of our departments are offering support after school for the remainder of this half term and details of this can be found on the Year 11 RED Review Google Classroom. If your child has not yet joined this useful resource, please encourage them to check their emails for the invite and join as soon as possible.

Final lesson and revision sessions

Core subjects will also be running their 'Breakfast Warm-Ups' before their morning exams. Food and drink will be provided and these will be held in the Dance Studio. We have also looked at the exam timetable and worked out when the final double lessons are before exams for each subject and year half (P or Q side) take place. Year 11 students will be in school for these lessons until 24 May and are welcome to attend any of these lessons after study leave begins on 3 June. These lessons will be staffed by a teacher and students can bring RED Review activities with them to complete as well as having the opportunity to ask their teachers anything they feel they need to before the next exam. Core subject leaders will send letters home with the details of these breakfast sessions and the final lessons.

Some of these lessons will clash with exams in other subjects so make sure that you and your year 11 student have checked their exam timetable to work out which of these final lessons they will be able to attend. Options subjects will also be operating 'open doors' for their final lessons before exam papers and students can check these with their options teachers. If your Year 11 feels that they will struggle to concentrate on revision and exam preparation at home, there will be quiet spaces for them to study in school whilst the exam season is running and details of this will be posted on the Year 11 RED Review Support Google Classroom and on the door of the LRC. After Leavers Day, they must sign in at front reception and bring their ID card with them **every time** they come to school. These ID cards will be distributed by Year 11 form tutors and must be looked after carefully; if a card is lost, students may ask for a new one - the first replacement will be free of charge but all others will be charged for after this. These ID cards must be displayed clearly on exam desks. Once Study Leave has begun, Year 11 no longer have to wear their Weald uniform at school and may sit their exams wearing their own clothes.

Late arrivals / Absence

If a student arrives for an exam late as a result of unavoidable reasons (e.g. transport) they are to go straight to their venue upon arrival at school and enter the venue silently, making themselves known to the invigilating team.

When letting us know of any absence that affects the exams, please report this as soon as possible on the morning of the exam to exams@theweald.org.uk and absence@theweald.org.uk. Absence from exams should only be in severe circumstances.

Exams ending during break

If a student sits an exam that ends during or after break time and they miss their usual break, they will be given their full 20 minute break time. This is to be taken in the E block canteen only (not across the school site). Toilet facilities are available here.

Afternoon exams

Please note that some exams finish later than 3.05pm. On Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, if your child's exam finishes after the school buses depart, they may get the late bus home at 4.20pm. For a small number of students, they will have exams that finish later than 3.05pm on a

Monday or Friday and there are no late buses provided. Please check your child's exam timetable with them and make your own arrangements for transport home on these days, if needed. If there are any issues with this, please contact me by email.

Exam regulations

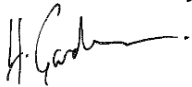
Finally, alongside this letter, you will have received a copy of the JCQ (Joint Council of Qualifications) exam regulations. This has been presented to and shared with year 11 on multiple occasions over the last two years and they should be familiar with this. Please take a moment to read it so you are also aware of the rules and regulations surrounding the GCSE exams, including what to do if a student is late for an exam, and the restrictions on mobile phones and watches. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact me. The Joint Council of Qualifications (JCQ) clearly states that equipment should not be provided by the school. Students have already been reminded of the minimum equipment requirements and should ensure they have the following in a clear pencil case:

- **A minimum of 2 black ballpoint pens**
- **2 pencils**
- **1 rubber**
- **1 pencil sharpener**
- **1 30 cm ruler**
- **1 protractor**
- **1 pair of compasses**
- **1 scientific calculator**

We also strongly recommend that students have **2-3 highlighters** to use in exams to help them analyse texts and pick out key information and command words in questions.

Thank you for your continued support of Year 11 at this time.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs Hannah Gardner
Head of Year 11

