

December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

KS3 Exams in English, Maths and Science

As mentioned recently in the letter accompanying your child’s 1st progress report, our Year 7, 8 and 9 students will be sitting exams in English, Maths and Science between 11th and 15th January and these will assess their knowledge and understanding of the content they have covered to date in these subjects. These KS3 exams will take place as detailed below:

	English	Maths	Science
Year 7	Monday 11th January 10:30am – 11:30am (1 hour)	Friday 15th January 10:30am – 11:45am (1 hour 15 mins)	Tuesday 12th January 10:30am – 11:30am (1 hour)
Year 8	Wednesday 13th January 8:25am – 9:25am (1 hour)	Thursday 14th January 8:25am – 9:40am (1 hour 15 mins)	Tuesday 12th January 1:20pm – 2:20pm (1 hour)
Year 9	Thursday 14th January 10:30am – 11:30am (1 hour)	Friday 15th January 8:25am – 9:40am (1 hour 15 mins)	Monday 11th January 8:25am – 9:25am (1 hour)

In light of Covid and the need to minimise large groups of students gathering in one place, all exams this year will take place in classrooms. All students will sit their exam at the same time, regardless of the particular lesson they would normally have at that time. Students with Access Arrangements in place (for example extra time, 1:1 or group reader, scribe, word processor, prompt) will sit their exam in a separate venue to ensure they can access the support to which they are entitled. All students will receive an individual exam timetable with these dates on and the specific room each of their exams will take place in - these will be given out in the first week back after the Christmas holidays by form tutors. If by Thursday of that week your child has not received their exam timetable, please contact your child’s form tutor (contact details on the school website).

Whilst these exams are internal, rather than the externally assessed ones that are taken at the end of Year 11 and Year 13, it is nevertheless important that students take these assessments seriously and engage fully in

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revising at home and in all the revision activities their teachers will deliver after Christmas in lessons. Revision really helps students consolidate learning, builds their confidence and embeds the core knowledge they will need for future success in these subjects. It is also a skill that needs lots of practice for students to become efficient at revising.

These exams are also an excellent opportunity for students to become more accustomed at completing assessments in formal conditions, something we want them to feel confident and relaxed about later on in their school careers.

At the same time, we must stress that we do not want students to get unnecessarily worried about the exams, and we ask for your support here. Above all else, the exams are a valuable opportunity for teachers to assess the areas students have grasped well and those where further consolidation may still be required. In the current climate, these exams will also be particularly useful to help teachers identify any gaps in learning that may have developed during the school closures last year and help them to address these with students. However, it really is not the end of the world if an exam does not go as well as expected.

Revision at home is important, but it is equally important not to over-do it. We suggest that an average of 1.5 hours of revision per night during the week before these exams ought to be plenty enough for students to be well-prepared, assuming that they've been working hard in lessons. We will be asking other subjects (outside of Maths, English and Science) to try not to set homework during this time.

Please note that students are not expected to revise over the Christmas holidays; they have worked hard this term and should enjoy their well-earned rest. The work they've completed during the Autumn term, as well as the revision they will complete in lessons and at home during the first week back will adequately prepare students to complete these assessments.

For our Year 7's in particular, revising for assessments may still be a relatively unfamiliar process. To help you support your child with their revision in Year 7, 8 or 9, you can find information about the content the exam will cover, suggested revision activities and where to go for more help on our website (under *Academic/Revision/KS3*) and students are receiving this information in a [KS3 Revision Guide](#) today in form and Form Tutors will go through it with them. Any absent students will have their copy posted. Once papers have been completed, marked and moderated, we will report your child's percentage score on each exam. We will also report the average (mean) percentage and the 10th percentile score (top 10%) for the year group – these will be reported on the website.

For any subject-specific queries, please contact your child's English, Maths or Science teacher. For any other queries relating to the exams, please get in touch with your child's Head of Year (Year 7: Mrs C Worrall, Year 8: Miss H Crowder, Year 9: Mr T Scott) or myself.

May I finally take this opportunity to wish you and your family a wonderful Christmas and New Year and a well-deserved break after what has certainly been a most challenging term.

Yours faithfully



Ms N Dixon
Assistant Headteacher