



Dear Parents,

I am writing to you with an update on the upcoming Year 10 exams.

These exams are taking place from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> through to Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June.

These exams will be sat under the exam board regulations set out by JCQ and will start to prepare them for the 'real thing' in May/June 2020.

These exams will be the first opportunity for these students to complete the 'GCSE experience' (they will experience this at least 3 more times before they finish year 11).

The significance of year 10 exams must not be understated. Not only are they a key indicator of progress this year, they also pave the way for Post 16 plans. Almost all applications for sixth forms, colleges and apprenticeships will need to be completed before the Christmas of 2019. These will require academic performance indicators, these will be based on Year 10 exam results.

All students have received their exam timetable. This document contains the date, time and subject of the exams on it. It also includes their seat location. It is the responsibility of each individual to know what exams they have, where and when.

Throughout the exam period, all students must attend tutor time as per the usual procedure. When the bell goes at 8.45 students are to make their way to the Maths Block playground. They must line up in the correct place according to their exam seat.

Once all students are lined up correctly and appropriately they will be admitted entry to the exam by the leadership team. Once in the exam hall, all exam protocols must be followed. There must be complete silence. As the students enter the exam hall they will place their bags on the stage. All mobile phones must be switched off (not in airplane mode) and in their bags. No phones are allowed on their person, even if they are off. There must be no smart watches either.

All students must arrive equipped for their exams. I am aware that this has been checked all week in tutor time. Exam equipment includes a minimum 2 black biro pens, pencil, ruler, rubber and whatever subject specialist equipment has been stated (e.g. calculators).

When each exam ends the students will be dismissed. Students are to return to their timetabled lesson where they will be registered. It is vital for safeguarding reasons that all students are in the right place at the right time. Any student who does not do this will trigger the usual protocols around a missing person – this is time consuming and causes unnecessary alarm.

Following on from the exams, the results will be released on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July. The students will receive their results on a format mirroring the GCSE experience. This will be published alongside the standard monitoring which will be released at the same time.

It is vital that all students take this exam opportunity seriously and use it as a platform from which to build their final year of GCSE. The results of these exams can determine the Post 16 destination choices.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our year 10 students all the very best of luck with their exams.

Pete Whitehouse (Assistant Headteacher – outcomes)