

Dear parents and carers,

I would like to start by apologising once again on behalf of the school for the mistake with the maths papers on Wednesday. I know that this will have caused unnecessary stress at an already stressful time and we are sincerely sorry that the students had to go through this. We are very grateful for the students' patience and understanding; they have been extremely tolerant, and we thank them for that.

The maths papers have been rescheduled as follows:

Paper 1 – Thursday 3rd December 11.30 am (instead of paper 2)

Paper 2 – Tuesday 8th December 11.30 am (instead of paper 3)

Paper 3 – Friday 11th December 9.00 am

PPE timetable

The PPEs continue next week. Art and photography PPEs will take place w/c 14th December and Mr Walker has been in touch with parents and students about these.

On Tuesday and Thursday, if your son/daughter does not have an exam at 9.00 he/she can revise at home until the start of the maths and science exams at 11.30.

On Monday and Wednesday, if your son/daughter is not sitting the RE or Spanish exams on Monday or the child development or product design exams on Wednesday, he/she can revise at home until lessons start as usual at 2.15pm. Once on site at 9.00am, students must not leave school, they must go to a revision room (timetable posted on year 11 Team) until lunchtime at 1.30pm.

All students will be in school at 9.00am on Friday 11th for the rescheduled maths exam.

Students are welcome to come into school from 9.00am any day to use a revision room if they wish.

If the exam finishes before the end of the lesson time, students can bring revision notes/books to revise after the exam has finished. They will not be allowed to leave the room until the end of lesson time.

The school timetable will be back to normal on Monday 14th December; art and photography students will be the only ones to be off normal timetable.

PPE equipment

Students must remember to bring all their equipment; black pens, calculators, rulers etc. **We will not be lending out equipment**, as per public health guidelines. During the exam, students must keep mobile phones in their bags, on silent. Alternatively, they can hand them in for the duration of the exam.

Revision/support sessions

I am pleased to confirm that our generic study club will now run after school on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3.15-4.15pm and will be staffed by Miss Johnson on a Monday, Mrs Starr on a Tuesday and Miss Cambio on a Thursday. This is an opportunity for students to come and get some support and advice on general revision or a specific subject or do homework or revision in a quiet space. We know that some students get more done in the school environment rather than at home with the distractions of their phone and Netflix! In the coming weeks, we will be identifying students who we think would benefit from attending the study club and will be getting in touch with parents about this. Please see below a reminder of our revision/support sessions. They will continue throughout the PPEs.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
ICT 3.15-4pm E14	Visual Art 3.15-4.15pm – D9, E2 & E3	GCSE PE Lunch Time 1.30-2.00pm D2	Drama 3.45-4.45pm A block
History Miss Cambio 3.30-4.15pm D8			Geography 3.30-4.15pm D7
Product Design 3.30-4.30pm D1 & D2	History Mr Fisher 3.30-4.15pm - D7		Combined Science (Triple Scientists also welcome) 3.15-4.15pm D16 & D18
Music 3.30-4.30pm MU1 & MU2	English 3.15-4.15pm Lower D Block		
Study Club 3.15-4.15pm D7	Study Club 3.15-4.15pm D8		

DfE announcement about GCSE exams 2021

On Thursday, the DfE issued a press release concerning exams in 2021. The announcement can be found here - [Extra measures to support students ahead of next summer's exams - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-measures-to-support-students-ahead-of-next-summer-exams).

As you may know, the exams had already been delayed by three weeks to give extra teaching time. In addition, the new measures include:

- More generous grading than usual, in line with national outcomes from 2020, so students this year are not disadvantaged.
- Students receiving advance notice of some topic areas covered in GCSE, AS and A levels to focus revision.
- Exam aids - like formula sheets - provided in some exams giving students more confidence and reducing the amount of information they need to memorise.
- Additional exams to give students a second chance to sit a paper if the main exams or assessments are missed due to illness or self-isolation.
- A new expert group to look at differential learning and monitor the variation in the impact of the pandemic on students across the country.

Mrs Wittich-Jackson has already shared this information with students on the year 11 Team. We are hoping to hear by the end of January the topic areas that will be covered and will of course keep you and the students up to date.

High Performance Learning

The High Performance Learning focus for next week is 'Analysing,' in particular 'precision.'



"The ability to work effectively within the rules of a domain"

This is where students are encouraged to use higher tier terminology in their answers or the correct technique in their execution of a skill. When presented with complex and multi-step problems, where the students need to break tasks down into manageable chunks, they need to consider if they have followed the right steps and rules to solve that problem and come out with a positive result. This could be learning a new skill in PE, analysing a source in History, following a recipe in Food Technology. As teachers and parents, we need to overtly reward careful thinking and logistical analysis. When mistakes are made, which they inevitably will during the learning process, it's about going back and identifying which step of the task was wrong and rectify it to improve the outcome.

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Principal: David James **Vice Principals:** Andrew Fisher Katherine Patterson Gary Wakefield

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I'm sure many of the students have come home this week and have been analysing how their exams have gone, which questions or papers went well, and which ones didn't. When they get their papers back, this step by step analysis will be really useful. What went well? Where did I make a mistake? How should I have tackled that question, so that I know for next time? These are all really valuable questions that will help them focus their energies.

Wearing of masks

I am pleased to report that since we adopted a zero-tolerance approach, we have seen very few students not wearing masks. It is vitally important that students wear face masks in communal areas around school, apart from in lessons (unless instructed to do so by the teacher). This includes outside. Students can pull down their masks while eating, but **must not eat while walking down the busy corridors**. They have breaks of 30 and 45 minutes so do not need to eat while walking. We have staff and students who are extremely vulnerable, and we must protect them. I have also reminded students that by wearing a mask they are protecting themselves, other students, members of staff and their families. We will continue to record a behaviour point for any student found not wearing a mask, or with it under his/her chin. Many thanks in advance for your support with this.

Student and parent questionnaires

Just a reminder to please take a few minutes to complete the parent questionnaire and to encourage your son/daughter to do the same. The student questionnaire was emailed to them and posted on the year 11 Team, and you can access the parent questionnaire here: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=-RwkYclZfkOajLIVMVszGU7g0glpnHdPtKtTWIZY4I1UQ1g0TFhUQzgxMTNEWVA5TDBVNUdPSzVQMC4u>

As always, if you have any concerns please do contact myself or Mrs Wittich-Jackson so that we can support your son/daughter in any way possible.

Yours faithfully,

Lowri Briggs
Progress Leader for Year 11