

Year 9 Exams
(Monday 18th June-Friday 29th June 2018)

Dear Parents/Guardians,

While we have, in the past, had internal exams in English and mathematics during Year 9, we have not set these in other subjects. However, the move to the new 9-1 GCSE qualifications, where the entire final grade in most subjects is based on the students' performance in exams, has made us review what exams our students sit and when.

We have therefore introduced a set of internal Year 9 Exams which will take place between Monday 18th June and Friday 29th June 2018. These exams will take place in all core subjects (English, mathematics, RS and science) as well as in the subjects which students have opted for at GCSE (where they have been studying these subjects in Year 9).

These option subjects include: art & design, drama, food, French, geography, German, history, music, resistant materials (design technology) and Spanish. They will not have exams in dance or PE (where no theory has yet been taught) or in new subjects such as business or sociology.

As they will only have exams in the option subjects which they have chosen, and because different students have opted for different subjects, we will be providing the students with an individual exam timetable – like they will get for their final GCSE exams. Putting this together is quite a complex process but we will send a copy of it home, via School Comms, as soon as it is ready. The students will also receive their own copy of this timetable.

The intention of this new set of exams is to support the students with their preparation for their final GCSEs. This includes:

- giving them an earlier experience of sitting formal exams in the School Hall (or other more formal venues)
- getting the students to develop and practice revision skills
- helping the students develop their exam skills

A booklet has been put together which includes details of which topics will be examined in each subject along with some 'top tips' on revision. This can be accessed by clicking on the link below. This will take you to the 'Exam Information' page on the school's website:

<http://gillotts.oxon.sch.uk/teaching-and-learning/exam-information>

If you scroll down to the bottom of this web page you will find a copy of the 'Year 9 Exams Booklet' which you can download by clicking on it. We will also e-mail a copy of this booklet to each student. Your child's teachers will also go through what they need to revise and help them develop revision skills.

There will not be any 'study leave' during the exam period and students should attend their lessons as normal unless they are in an exam. While the majority of students will sit all their exams in the School Hall there will be a small number who will sit them in other venues. We will make sure that they are clear about where these will be.

I have attached a copy of the overall exam timetable with this letter. It is important that students arrive at least 10 minutes before the start of the exam (8.35am for an 8.45am start, 1.20pm for a 1.30pm start).

In terms of equipment, students should ensure that they bring the following equipment to every exam:

Two black biros or pens

Two pencils

A ruler (preferably 30 cm), rubber, pencil sharpener, protractor & compass

A calculator

A set of colouring pencils

All equipment must be kept in a clear pencil case or plastic bag. Any drinks bottles should be completely clear.

All mobile devices (include internet enabled watches) will need to be handed in at the start of the exam. All other watches will need to be placed on the exam desk rather than worn.

We are aware that it can be a stressful period for some students and I would like to encourage you to contact your son/daughter's tutor or subject teachers if you have any concerns. It is also important that students build relaxation time into their revision programme and get plenty of sleep.

We wish your sons and daughters every success in these exams.

Yours faithfully,



Dr E.J.Newbold

Deputy Headteacher