

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Year 11 GCSE Examination Study Arrangements

As you will be aware our year 11 pupils have now started their GCSE exams. Some of the practical exams have already taken place and next week they begin the written papers. The GCSE examination timetable 2019 has been given to the students and is published on the school website, the first written exam is on Monday 13 May. It is essential that all students and parents familiarise themselves with the individual candidate timetable and the exam regulations.

Attendance to Examinations

All year 11 students are expected in school throughout the examination period. When not in examinations, students will follow their school lesson timetable. Students with a morning exam are expected to be in school by **7.45am** for a free breakfast and pre exam preparation session in the main hall which begins at **8.00am**. Students must arrive at their examination room **15 minutes before the start of an examination** wearing full school uniform and fully equipped. The start times are as follows: 8.30am for morning sessions and 1.00pm for afternoon sessions. **Missed exams cannot be retaken and therefore your child will get a zero in that paper and almost certainly fail that subject.**

Final Preparation for Examinations

At the end of every day the school will provide a revision session for the exam/s taking place the following day. This plan, along with the May half term schedule, will be published on the website and given to students. At this stage it is important that every student:

- attends all remaining lessons
- incorporates revision into their free time
- attends intervention classes after school
- completes/improves coursework according to deadlines set by staff
- works on their areas of weakness
- communicates with members of staff particular areas of difficulty or concern

It is also important that all students remain positive and optimistic while eating, hydrating, resting and sleeping well so that they can perform at their best. The school is monitoring every student very closely to work with each one to ensure they achieve their full potential.

Ramadan and Examinations

Once again this year, Ramadan falls within the examination season and will also coincide with the summer solstice. This means that Ramadan 2019 will have one of the longest average fasting hours in the northern hemisphere during its 33-year cycle. For our Muslim students Ramadan is a period of prayer, self-reflection, and self-control, charity-giving and expressing goodwill to others. Most noticeably it is also a time of fasting and control over the need to eat and drink during daylight hours. The combination of long days and examinations will undoubtedly put extra pressure on young Muslims who choose to fast during this period of Ramadan.

Individual students will need to balance their usual observance and fasting for Ramadan with the demands and priorities of revision and their examinations. Please ensure students are well prepared, ready and understand the likely effects on their bodies during fasting so that they manage these challenges well by planning ahead and organising their time.

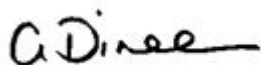
Year 11 Celebration Assembly

The formal Year 11 Celebration Assembly will take place on the afternoon of Tuesday 18 June. Students will attend their final Statistics exam in the morning, where they will be registered. The assembly will then start at 10.35pm in the School hall and is expected to finish by 11.35am. The assembly will celebrate the time they have spent at TCS and feature anecdotes from teachers and form tutors. Students always enjoy signing one another's shirts and there will be time to do so after the assembly; however, students should ensure that they bring in a spare shirt for this purpose. Although you will already be aware, it is crucial to remind all students that school rules will apply on the day of the Celebration Assembly. Students will be expected to leave the school site by 12.00pm.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued support and I wish all of our students every success in the forthcoming examinations. I look forward to celebrating their achievements when they receive their GCSE results on Thursday 22 August.

Thank you for your ongoing support in these final and vitally important weeks.

Yours sincerely,



Gillian Dineen

Headteacher