



May 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian

YEAR 10 TRIAL EXAMINATIONS
Tuesday 11th June – Thursday 20th June

Year 10 students will begin their year 10 trial exams on **Tuesday 11th June 2024** through to **Thursday 20th June 2024**. In the Yr10 assembly, tomorrow, Friday 24th May we will share the details of the exam period and the format they will take to ensure students are clear on the schedule and the way in which the examinations will be conducted. Students know that examinations begin as they enter the 'venue' and that no communication or disturbance can be permitted. This year the exams will all be conducted in the **Sports Hall or classrooms for students with access arrangements**, so that they become familiarised with the venue in which they will sit their public examinations a year from now. These examinations will allow us to assess students' performance on full GCSE papers in full GCSE conditions, thereby helping us provide quality, up to date information regarding their current position and an up-to-date projected final grade for the end of Y11.

Students should arrive at the usual time each day and attend tutor time as normal in **college uniform**. Mobile phones can cause students to be disqualified from external examinations so the usual Wyvern rule will be followed, i.e. all phones to be switched off and in the bottom of bags.

To accommodate these internal examinations, we need to make some changes to the college day during this period. Key changes are:

- Students will follow a 2:1:2 day (see detail on the exam timetable)
- When students have finished their afternoon exam (between 2.15pm and 2.45pm) students can leave site. (study rooms will be made available for students who wish to remain on site)

If a parent/carer would prefer their son/daughter to remain on site until 2.55pm please contact request a space in a study room by emailing year10@wyvern.hants.sch.uk

I appreciate that this kind of examination period, whilst good preparation for the GCSEs next year, will be quite intense for our students. There will of course be pastoral support available including your son / daughter's tutor, subject teacher, the Year 10 office and Learning Support for individuals who may need it. Prevention is better than cure in my experience so if there are any concerns about your son/daughter and these internal trial examinations, please get in touch sooner rather than later. Many of our current Year 11 students have commented on how beneficial it was to have had experienced formal trial examinations in the run up to their actual GCSE exams.

Your son/daughter will be provided with a personalised timetable which will detail the exam dates/times/venue and seat number so that they are fully prepared for these trial exams. The

timetables will be emailed home in the week beginning 3rd June 2024, and will also be available on EduLink, so that you are able to retain an electronic copy and print a hard copy for your child to refer to during the exam week. In addition, a copy of the full timetable is available on the college website.

It is important that your son/daughter is also well prepared for these trial exams and follows a revision programme.

Students will have a protected number of weeks whereby all home learning should be 'revision only' and this commenced from Monday 20th May.

Subject areas have been directed to provide specific revision homework for this period and provide revision lists in the weeks leading up to the examinations.

We expect the very highest standards of conduct during the examinations in order to ensure all students can concentrate and focus.

Helping your child with revision

Some ideas from Ian Gilbert, an expert in the field of 'motivation and learning'

- Get in the right physical and mental state to learn.
- Choose a suitable place – quiet without distractions.
- Give your brain the best chance - TV, loud music at the same time is not the best idea – you need to focus.
- Learn in small chunks – 25 minutes is enough at once. Have a short break, stretch, walk, get your lungs full of oxygen - start again.
- Give yourself a reward for learning – watch TV / use the iPad or phone AFTER work.
- 80% of what you learn is lost in 24 hours. The more often you revise the more you will learn.
- Ensure that you get **a good nights' sleep**.

Make your revision active

- Use highlighting
- Spider diagrams
- Use coloured post-its
- Try to explain what you have learnt to someone else.
- Shopping list to help remember information
- Take small breaks between each topic.

Thank you in anticipation of your support and I wish the students every success in the forthcoming exams.

Yours faithfully

T Merriman

S Stocks

Mr T Merriman
Pastoral Leader Year 10

Mr S Stocks
Deputy Headteacher