



Dear Parent/Carer

Our week of internal exams for year 9 pupils begins on the 24th April.

As a school we feel that this time of year is an important step on the road towards their final GCSE's. We run all of our internal exams in a way which mirrors their final exams at the end of year 11. This allows pupils to get used to the experience and takes away some of the pressure in a time which can be quite scary and stressful.

We would appreciate your support in making sure that these exams run as smoothly as possible and your child achieves their best. Below are some guidelines which your child will need to follow during their exam week:

- Pupils will need to bring their equipment; pens, pencils, ruler, rubber in a clear pencil case. A highlighter may also be useful as pupils are encouraged to highlight important parts of the questions.
- Pupils will also need a calculator for their Science and Maths exams.
- As the exams take place in the sports hall pupils are expected to remove their shoes.
- If your child is absent during the exams they will need to catch up when they return. A time will be arranged by the class teacher. Please inform us in advance if you know your child will be absent.
- In the morning pupils will register as normal with their form tutors then make their way to the sports hall. In the afternoon they will make their way straight to their exam shortly before the end of lunch.

The exam timetable is attached to this letter. Art and Music exams will take place during lesson time. Please take time to read the guidance on supporting your child with revision. If you have any further questions about exams or revision please feel free to contact the school.

Thank you for your continued support

Mr C O'Connor

Your child's exam timetable is below. It would be worth attaching this to the fridge.

	Monday 24TH April	Tuesday 25TH April	Wednesday 26th April	Thursday 27th April	Friday 28th April
1	English 1	Normal lesson	Normal lesson	Science (1HR 15 MINS)	French
2	Normal lesson	Normal lesson	Normal lesson	Normal lesson	Normal lesson
3	Normal lesson	Geography	English	Maths 2	Computer Studies
4	Maths 1	RE	History	Normal lesson	Product Design
5	Normal lesson	Normal lesson	Normal lesson	Normal lesson	Normal lesson

If pupils are to get the most out of these exams it is important that they spend some time preparing and revising the work that they have studied so far. Below are some ideas to support their revision:

- A range of activities will help your child to retain information. Making notes, breaking down topics to key points, creating diagrams or mind maps, using colour and images will help their brains to remember.
- A variety of activities will suit different learners. Watching videos (there's a wide range of videos on the Bitesize website), talking about topics or questioning your child will work well.
- Having a revision timetable is useful, including topics rather than just the name of the subject. Keep the revision time achievable and break it up into short chunks with breaks in between.
- It might sound obvious - but is the environment right for learning? Research has shown that girls work just as well with background noise, but boys work better if there is a quiet atmosphere. If your house is short of space, think about what you can do to make it revision-friendly. Maybe you can create an area that is away from the noise of younger brothers and sisters, or the television.
- Encourage your child to eat well and drink plenty of water. A good breakfast, especially on exam days is really important.
- Try to be encouraging, not critical. Create a 'can do' attitude.

Below are some websites that may prove useful:

KS3 bitesize <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/levels/z4kw2hv>

Factmonster <http://www.factmonster.com/>

Mymaths <https://www.mymaths.co.uk/>

Planet science <http://www.planet-science.com/categories/parentsteachers/science-resources/2013/04/online-revision-resources-for-ks2,-ks3-and-gcses.aspx>