



5th April 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Examination Season 2017

On Tuesday morning last, students in Year 11 were given the grades they achieved in their mock exams taken in March. This process is the start of the run up to the main external examination season and gives them an idea of what things will look and feel like in August when the real results are published. The results are not a prediction of what they will achieve in the real thing so it is not too late to build on the result. With hard work and careful preparation between now and the exams students should be aiming to achieve a minimum of one grade higher than the mock results.

This year, there will also be some changes in arrangements following the May holiday. The main change from previous years is that there will be **no blanket study leave** for students. Instead school will continue for all Year 11 students either with a programme of compulsory exam preparation activities or the exams themselves until Friday 16th June following the final Science exam. However, some afternoon sessions are compulsory only for students preparing for certain subjects. Those not taking subjects in these sessions can use the time to organise their own study in rooms provided at school or, if they wish, at home. A detailed schedule of all of these activities can be found in the examinations section of the school website.

All students are required to wear school uniform whilst in school (including exams) throughout the period up to and including Thursday 15th June. On Friday 16th June there will be a **celebration event** following the final Science exam. On this date, students are encouraged to follow the Homewood tradition of dressing smartly in non-uniform for the day if they wish.

With regard to the exams themselves, all students have now received an individual candidate timetable and a copy of the main exam timetable is available on the school's website should you need to check any details. Students must be ready to enter the exam room by 9.00am for morning sessions or 1.15pm for the afternoon. Exams will START at 9.15am and 1.30pm.

Please consult the Student Handbook 2016-17 which is on the school's website for essential information on what to do before and during an exam including what to bring and, particularly, what NOT to bring in order to avoid disqualification from the award. Note that there is a blanket ban on smart watches which, like mobile phones, cannot be taken into an exam room. Students must arrive at each exam with the right equipment and dressed appropriately. The Student Handbook also contains instructions on what to do if a student is unable to attend.

Please also be aware that some students will finish afternoon exams after the end of the normal school day. As a result, students who normally rely on school coaches and buses to get home may need to arrange alternative transport. This will particularly affect those with exams on a Wednesday afternoon or who have extra time. Could I ask you to check carefully to identify whether or not this

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will affect your son/daughter and to consider an alternative means of transport should this be necessary.

Details for the collection of results from the School in August can also be found in the examinations section of the website. A Level and equivalent results will be available on Thursday 17th August in the Sixth Form area and GCSE and equivalent results on Thursday 24th August in the Sports Hall. Results will be available from 9:30am on these days.

It goes without saying that the most successful results are gained with hard work and careful preparation. Please do continue to encourage your son/daughter to work at this as there is still time to make an impact.

Yours sincerely

S A Pusey
Assistant Vice Principal

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