



# Year 11 Matters!

## Newsletter 2—May 2023



### Off to a Fantastic Start

[Navigating exam season resources - Place2Be](#)

There are some great rewards in teaching in terms of working with the students, but the chance to stop for a moment and look at the amazing work they can produce and how far they've come, really comes out near the top. I had the privilege Thursday morning to walk around the Art department and see the final pieces that were underway as part of their Final exam. The sheer quality, creativity and effort that had gone in were outstanding. It marks a great start to the exam period and I want to thank the Art department for nurturing such talent. Walking around now you also get to see the nervous smiles of those coming out of their French and German speaking examinations. I think very few exams are as draining as you really can feel 'put on the spot.' The feelings of achievement in the students that they've done it though, is almost tangible, and then they are straight back into their lessons studying. Again, my thanks to Languages for taking what is a nerve-racking experience and guiding our students through it and starting off the exams. All said and done, it's a great start for the year group and they are going into this exam season in the right mindset.

Mr Rafferty

### Into Exams

**Day of exam support:** Before each exam there will be a last minute 'tips and advice' section being run. This may take the form of a live or recorded presentation in tutor times, or a session run in Lunch for the afternoon exams. They are excellent and align students with content or techniques just before heading to the exam and can really help reassure.

For the morning ones, not all students might be taking a subject, so I ask the students to be quiet and respectful, working on their own studies rather than disrupting those who might gain from the guidance.

**Exam Conduct:** Year 11 were praised for their conduct in the Autumn Mocks. There are a few key messages:

- They need to be at their allocated exam room 10-15 minutes before the actual start time. Most morning exams will start at 9am and most afternoon exams at 1:30pm. But don't get caught out by the start of those at **1:00pm**.
- Students must have all the required equipment.
- Small water bottles with the **labels removed are allowed**.
- Phones, electronic devices or watches of any kind are not allowed.
- Coats and bags are to be left in the Sports Hall. Valuables can be handed to the team of invigilators.
- It is silence as soon as they enter the exam room.
- If the fire bell goes during the exam, **students are to remain seated** and work on their exam until they are told otherwise.
- Once finished they are dismissed and must leave silently in case there is someone who needs to carry on.



# Preparing for Success—The Final Stretch



## Past Papers

### Do as Many Practice Questions as You Can

- 1) The key to successful revision is to ~~use a crystal ball~~ be **well prepared** for the exam. To do this, you need to know what exam-style questions look like.
- 2) Do as many **practice papers** as you can. CGP have plenty of practice papers — but they'll also be on exam board websites.
- 3) You can **warm up** by using your **notes** to help you, but it's also important to practise under **exam conditions**.



### CGP's Practice Paper Top Tips

- ① **Practise under exam conditions** *SSSk*
- Get the **right equipment** out.
  - **Time** yourself.
  - Find somewhere quiet, with **no distractions**.
  - **Don't use** your **revision notes** to help you.

- ② **Use the mark scheme** ✓
- All practice papers should have **mark schemes**.
  - These tell you how **marks are allocated** and how to get the **right answer**.\*
  - **Compare** the mark scheme to what you wrote.
  - Mark yourself, **correcting** what you got wrong.

\*Unfortunately, they don't tell you the meaning of life.

- ③ **Check out examiner's reports** 🔍
- These tell you what people struggled with, and the things **examiners look for** (besides love).
  - Putting yourself in an examiner's shoes helps you see **how to improve** your answers.

- ④ **Do it all again** ↻
- Once you've marked your exam and figured out where you went wrong, **take a break** from it.
  - After a day or two, **do the exam again**.
  - This helps the **right answer** stick in your head.

- ⑤ **Don't panic!!!!**
- If you don't get a high mark at first, **don't worry** — the idea is to get **a bit better each time**.

**Exam practice is like washing your hair — you have to rinse and repeat....**

### Websites for Past Papers

- Exam practice [prachttps://www.aqa.org.uk/find-past-papers-and-mark-schemes](https://www.aqa.org.uk/find-past-papers-and-mark-schemes)

## Post Exam Next Steps

### Plan A and Plan B

Hopefully by now all students have a plan A and a plan B for where they are heading next year. The plan A should be aspirational but achievable and the plan B should be safe and secure. If you are unsure whether the plan you have the right plans in place you might need to spend some time looking into this. If Plan A is too easy then students aren't likely to push as much as they could and could limit themselves. If Plan B doesn't exist or is too similar to Plan A you are potentially in a position being left without something to move onto next year. Please sit down and discuss and make sure you are in agreement what next year holds.

### Applications

By now hopefully you have applied for your different plans for next year. If you haven't please take an evening and work through this. Whilst many official closing dates have closed places will still be open to discussion into applications. If you haven't got places lined up to move onto next year this can lead to unnecessary stress going into the exams.

### Advice and Support

If you feel you need guidance in terms of applications, appropriate plans or just careers guidance then an appointment can be made with Mrs Morton or myself to discuss what to do next. This can be done for just the student or for the parents too depending on what or who is appropriate. Please ask if you need help.

## Extra revision sessions

### Religious Studies Exam—Monday 15th May

Miss Williams will be running a virtual session with students **Sunday the 14th of May** on Teams from **11am for 2 hours**. This will help prepare for the exam the following day. Links will be sent to the students.

## Half Term Revision Sessions: Monday 29th May—Friday 2nd June

### Geography

They will be running an open **in person** revision session **Monday the 29th on May 8:30-10:30** in the school.

### English

They will be running 2 separate sessions on **Monday the 29th of May virtually 11-12**. These will be 'Five for 9' and 'Strive for 5' Students will be sent the relevant links to log in.

### Science

**Friday the 2nd of June** there will be **virtual sessions** running in science from 11-12. Students will be sent the relevant links to log in

### French

**Tuesday the 30th of May 10-11 Virtually**. Students will be sent the relevant links to log in

### Maths

In person sessions will be running **Tuesday 30 May, Wednesday 31 May and Thursday 1 June** for 4 different groups. These are targeted and student will receive a letter inviting them to the relevant group. There will be an open session on the **Wednesday 10-12 for Foundation and 12-2 for Higher in the Hall** as a walking talking Mock. **This is open to students not targeted in other groups.**

## Study Leave

Friday the 26th of May is the last day of term and the last day we require students to be in lessons. From this point study leave will begin. Students are only required to come in for their exams. We ask if they have a morning exam they come in to tutor as normal and register so we know we have them and for an afternoon exam they are in at least 30 minutes prior and signed in again so we know they are here.

Finding whether students are present for an exam can be an urgent matter and if we have students on site who are not registered promptly then we are using valuable time verifying this when we could be focusing on those who are genuinely not in for various reasons. It is essential we know students are in.

If students feel they are better off studying in school they may come in. We ask that this if for the full day and they register with tutors in the morning and then attend their normal timetable. Teachers will be prepared to support students in lesson, however if a student wants to work independently in the room on another subject they may as long as it's not disrupting others. In larger subjects at quiet times classes may be combined to better use teachers. Students who do not go to their lessons will have the option to come in a study revoked.

### Week Commencing 5/6/23

- 5/6/23: English Language Exam Paper 1 9:00 start 1 hour 45 minutes long  
Foundation French Writing Exam 13:30 start 1 hour long  
Higher French Writing Exam 13:30 start 1 hour 15 minutes long
- 6/6/23: Religious Studies Exam 3 Islam 13:30 Start 1 hour long
- 7/6/23: Maths Exam Paper 2 Calculator 9:00 start 1 hour 30 minutes long  
History Exam Papers 2A and 2B 13:00 start 2 hours long
- 8/6/23: Further Maths Paper 1 Non Calculator 9:00 start 1 hour 45 minutes long  
PE Exam, Health and Performance 9:00 start 1 hour 15 minutes long.
- 9/6/23: Geography Exam, The Human Environment 9:00 start 1 hour 30 minutes long  
Triple Science Biology Exam 2 13:30 start 1 hour 45 minutes long  
Trilogy Science Biology Exam 2 13:30 start 1 hour 15 minutes long  
Synergy Science Exam 3 13:30 start 1 hour 45 minutes long

### Week Commencing 12/6/23

- 12/6/23: English Language Exam Paper 2 9:00 start 1 hour 45 minutes long  
Imedia Exam 13:30 start 1 hour 15 minutes long
- 13/6/23: Triple Science Chemistry Exam 2 9:00 start 1 hour 45 minutes long  
Trilogy Science Chemistry Exam 2 9:00 start 1 hour 15 minutes long  
Synergy Science Exam 4 9:00 start 1 hour 45 minutes long
- 14/6/23: Maths Exam Paper 3 Calculator 9:00 start 1 hour 30 minutes long  
Polish Listening Exam 13:00 start 45 minutes long  
Polish Reading Exam, starts after previous exam 1 hour long  
Music Exam 13:30 start 1 hour 15 minutes long
- 16/6/23: Triple Science Physics Exam 2 9:00 start 1 hour 45 minutes long  
Trilogy Science Physics Exam 2 9:00 start 1 hour 15 minutes long  
Geography Exam Investigations 13:30 start 1 hour 30 minutes long

### **An equipped student is a settled student!**

The last thing you need is to go into an exam wondering if you have all you need, or using a piece of equipment for the first time. Try and get fully equipped as soon as possible and familiarise yourself especially with calculators. It will help your pre exam nerves

### **Week Commencing 19/6/23**

- 19/6/23: Design and Technology Exam 9:00 start 2 hours long  
Design and Technology Textiles Exam 9:00 start 2 hours long
- 20/6/23: Dance Exam 9:00 start 1 hour 30 minutes long  
Food and Nutrition Exam 9:00 start 1 hour 45 minutes long
- 21/6/23: Polish Writing Exam 9:00 start 1 hour 15 minutes long  
Further Maths Exam Paper 1 Calculator 13:00 start 1 hour 45 minutes long

### **End of Exams**

## **Post Exam Dates**

### **Stand Down Celebration. 30/6/23**

This is on the Friday afternoon on the 30th of June. We invite the year 11's back in for a celebration of their time here at the school. Students will need to be on site at 13:00 and will be finished at 15:00. During this time students will see a video of their memories at the school, get the awards they voted for and receive their leavers hoodies. We also will provide some snacks and drinks, but there will also be a BBQ where students will be able to pre order items. This is also the time students can get their shirts signed.

### **Prom 7/7/23**

Taking place at the Cotswold Hotel and Spa. This will mark the final hurrah for year 11 and we'll look forward to seeing many of them and their families there. More information will be coming out in the next few weeks with requests for information from student with who they will be sitting with at Prom and who they are arriving with.

### **Results Day 24/8/23**

Students are going to be able to collect their results on the morning of the 24th of August. From the Sixth form centre in the morning. During this time discussions will happen with the Sixth form team with regarding studying here next year. Support will be available in helping students who's results may mean a different plan is needed for future study. We ask at this time that students inform us where they are studying next year as we are required to pass this information onto the county. Those who are unable to collect their result in person please make us aware in advance who will be collecting them in their place so we can release them, or they will be posted home.



#### **Mix it Up**

Do not focus too much on one exam or topic, but also not too much on one style. Try past papers or topic focus assessment, you might do some revision cards and some listing key facts or quotes.

#### **Break it up**

Do not do all at once try breaking it into chunks This way you don't burn out or realise after 3 hours you can't remember anything from the first hour.

#### **Plan it**

Do not spend the night before a Chemistry exam revising for Physics that is a week later.

#### **Get Physical**

Short bursts of exercise really will provide a health break as well as assisting in getting your brain in gear.

#### **Ask the Experts**

Many of your teachers have been through this before, use their experience to help guide you in what, and how to study as well as support you when you are stuck

#### **Explore New Ground**

It is tempting to revise what you already know. make sure you are covering everything and be honest with yourself about where you need to focus.

# F A Q

We've know there can be a lot of questions about this time of year and we are always eager to help in any way we can so please get in touch. That said here are some of the common questions we get and we hope this can at least put some of your worries to rest.

## *What if I've 2 exams at the same time?*

If you look at your personal time table you will have seen that bespoke provisions have been made for each student. This might mean you will sit an exam around midday and another at a later time. Because of this there will be a period of time you will need to be in isolation as so not to share content. This will mean the canteen is not an option and pack lunch will be needed. We will though provide snack bars and water too for the small breaks to help students.

## *My exam finishes after the end of the school day how do I get home?*

We ask that you arrange a way home just as you would after a revision session as the busses will have gone if that is your usual method. If this is a problem please get in touch and we will see if we can help.

## *If I have a morning exam can I go home after?*

Once study leave has begun for you this is an option but you much sign out and we ask you have written permission from home so everyone is aware of the situation and when you are off site.

## *What happens if I'm late to an exam?*

We obviously hope this won't occur as it doesn't put you in the best frame of mind for the exam and we will try and track if anyone is missing so we can help if possible and for a short time you can still enter the exam.

Any other questions please email tutor or head of year who can either help or point you in the right direction.

## **Extra Provision**

We are providing 2 types of revision sessions. Targeted sessions which are aimed specific individuals and groups on key topics. There are also open sessions available to all students, the only restriction here is if conduct affects the learning of others you will be asked to leave.

English: Targeted sessions begin Tuesday. Open Revision on the 23rd of May in the 6th form centre.

Science: Revision sessions every Thursday in S2, S3 and S4 - separate sessions for triple, trilogy and synergy, open to everyone.

Maths: Targeted session Mondays 3:00-4:00. Open sessions in M4, M5, M6 8:00-8:35 every day except Wednesdays.

History: Open sessions Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtimes in HU8 and after school on Thursdays in HU7

Art: Rooms are open and staffed every lunch and after school, please speak to your teacher to arrange,

P.E: Open session 3-4:30 in P1

Other subjects are arranged through discussion with your teachers.

## **Final words**

We will issue another letter in 2 weeks with any update and some extra tips and more FAQ. Please get in contact if you need support.