

7 December 2020

Dear Year 11 Parent/Carer

As you will know, Year 11 students returned last week and have now settled in well to their new pod area, located around the maths area of the school.

On Thursday, I led an assembly with Year 11 to outline the year ahead and today I led a second assembly introducing our revision and exam preparation programme. In both of these assemblies, I shared a range of information with students and I also wanted to write to you separately to keep you informed.

PRPs and Mock Examinations

PRP1 (Progress report point 1) will be released to parents on Friday 11 December 2020, through the SIMs app. This will be the first full academic progress report since March 2020 when we went into lockdown. The grades produced at PRP1 are teacher predictions of the grades that students are most likely to achieve at the end of Year 11, given their current performance and work ethic. That is not to say that students will not do better (or worse!) than the predictions and there is still plenty of time for all students to make the necessary improvements. If you have any concerns about the published PRP grade, you should contact your child's subject teacher in the first instance.

Our mock examinations for Year 11 will take place over the fortnight of the week beginning 25 January 2021 and week beginning 1 February 2021. Students will complete exams in almost all of their subjects (art exams will happen later in the term), using past GCSE papers. It will be an authentic experience for students, as we will be using the exam hall and the usual exam timings and conditions. Students who qualify for exam access arrangements will be provided with these so that they know what to expect in the summer.

To ensure the safety of students completing exams during the COVID pandemic, we will be introducing the following safeguards:

- The sports hall will be used exclusively for Year 11 students so that there is no pod mixing
- The exam desks will be separated by 2 metres to ensure adequate social distancing
- Students will always sit at the same desk for the duration of the mock exam fortnight, minimising risk of transmission
- Students will not be loaned any equipment, to stop any unnecessary sharing of equipment
- The exam invigilators will be wearing face masks for the duration of the exam and will be maintaining appropriate social distancing from students

The mock examination timetable will be published for students at the start of January. The results of the mock examinations will be published to parents on Friday 12 February 2021.

Year 11 revision and exam preparation programme

This morning we shared our revision and exam preparation timetable with all students, and I have attached a copy of this timetable with this letter. As we move through the year, there will be changes to this document as more sessions are added, so I have shared the 'live' document with students so that they are always up-to-date.

The programme is a blend between face-to-face sessions run in school and online sessions run through 'Webex' or recorded revision videos using 'Loom'.

Some of the sessions are open to all students, whilst other sessions are by invitation only - individual subject teachers will confirm this with students. The published sessions will begin from this week unless stated otherwise.

After Christmas, we will be adding further sessions to the programme, which will take place over February half-term and at Easter.

External exams in the summer

External GCSE's and A level exams will go ahead this year, three weeks later than usual to maximise the amount of curriculum learning time available to students, so the main body of the summer exams will start on Monday 7 June 2021 and will be finished by Monday 5 July 2021. Please note that there may be some exams that take place outside of this period, for example, the exam boards are planning for one of the maths exams to take place before the summer half-term.

The government announced last week a series of measures to ensure fairness for students completing exams in the summer. In summary:

- There will be more generous grading than usual, in line with results from summer 2020, so that this year's cohort is not disadvantaged
- Students will get advance notice - at the end of January - of some topic areas covered in exams to focus their revision
- Exam aids - such as formula sheets - will be provided in some exams to cut down on the memorising required
- Additional "backup" exams will be held in July - to give students a second chance to sit a paper if they have to miss main exams or assessments due to illness or self-isolation
- A new expert group will be set up to monitor variation in the impact of the pandemic on students across the country. The intention of this is to try to ensure that students in areas that have seen greater disruption due to COVID are not disadvantaged

As and when we hear about any changes to the governments' plans we will keep you informed.

Online Year 11 parents' meeting: Wednesday 6th January 2021

We will be running an online parents' meeting to run through arrangements for the Spring and Summer terms and to share some advice and guidance on how you can best support your son/ daughter with their revision. The event will run from 5.00pm – 6.00pm and we will share the Webex link invite with parents before we break up for Christmas.

If you have any questions or concerns about any of the topics I have covered in this letter please contact me by email at wilkinson.a@northallertonschool.org.uk

Kind regards



Mr A. Wilkinson
Deputy Headteacher

Y11 / 13 Catch-up and revision programme 2020/21

All sessions begin from Monday 7th December unless stated otherwise.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8am-8:30am		GCSE French - MWi (B25) GCSE Spanish - DWE (B24)	GCSE Business - KRe (Starting Wed 6th Jan)		GCSE Spanish - DWE (B24)
Tutor-time 8:45-9:10	GCSE Maths - THi GCSE English - ADu	GCSE Maths - THi GCSE English - ADu GCSE Y11 PE theory JSH - invited students to begin with	GCSE English - ADu	GCSE English - ADu	GCSE English - ADu
After-school: Online: webex / recorded	GCSE Media Studies -Loom/youtube video and supporting revision task. This will be added to Google Classroom each Monday.	GCSE History - ASC Regular Loom videos added to Google Classroom for students to access. GCSE Geography NTO/CSM all welcome split session grades up to 5 and 5 plus switch around between teachers - Weekly Loom/webex Videos Mathematics - GCSE Class teachers: Mixture of remote live sessions and recorded sessions (Starting from January)	GCSE Sciences: Two/three sessions per week, on a three week cycle: Biology/Chemistry/Physics The sessions will usually be Triple/Combined/HLN Delivered via WebEx GCSE RS: - Loom video produced once a fortnight GCSE English (Mr Watkins) sessions delivered online	A-level history: ASC running p5 coursework sessions 2:15-3:15, to switch to exam preparation when appropriate. (Also Loom videos being uploaded on areas of course identified by students).	
After-school: face-to-face 3:15-4:15	Y13 English Literature 3:15-4:00 with RMu/MHe. GCSE Y11 PE theory KTH - invited students to start with - catch up from lockdown (B23) GCSE Engineering Coursework and Theory	GCSE DT - Coursework and Theory catch - up (DTH) in T3. CNAT iMedia Coursework catch up (NEL/LAN) in A6 Y11 Health and Social Care (A3) GCSE Art - (B1)	Y13 English Literature 3:15-4:00 with MHe. GCSE PE Y11 AHV/EMY- Badminton assessment - invited students on a rotation basis GCSE Music One-to-one/Small group composition workshop (Invite only)	A level PE Yr13 SWR	Y13 English Literature 3:15-4:00 with RMu.

	<p>catch-up. (GTA) In T3.</p> <p>GCSE Music One-to-one/Small group composition workshop (Invite only) B8/9</p> <p>GCSE PE Y11 NEA coursework to start Jan 4th until Feb half term only, in a computer room x2 - all welcome AHV/EMY</p>	<p>GCSE PE Y11 climbing assessment SWR - invited students and for those not doing climbing in the lesson time</p> <p>GCSE Music One-to-one/Small group composition workshop (Invite only) B8/9</p> <p>GCSE Spanish: all abilities welcome. (B24) HBA</p>	<p>B8/9</p> <p>GCSE Drama One-to-one Portfolio support sessions By invitation - in the Drama studio.</p> <p>GCSE Spanish MLB (B24)</p> <p>A Level RS - once a fortnight</p> <p>GCSE DT - Coursework and Theory catch - up (GTA). In T3.</p> <p>GCSE Food - Coursework catch up (AMn) In H2.</p>		
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