

14<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Despite all the uncertainty that your child has faced in their education over the last nearly two years, one thing we can be certain of is the government's desire to get back to a full exam season at the end of year 11. We fully believe that this year exams will go ahead, some with adaptations, and this letter is to outline these adaptations that we know and what the next few months are going to look like for your child.

### **Revision**

When we come back in January, there will only be 15 full school weeks until the exams start on the week beginning May 16<sup>th</sup> (76 school days to be precise). Two of those weeks will be mock exam weeks, the week before February half term (starting February 14<sup>th</sup>) and the week after half term (the week starting February 28<sup>th</sup>) and there will be a third week with a smaller number of second mock exams on the week beginning the 25<sup>th</sup> of April.

This means that it is essential that your child maximises all the time they have left in school over these last 15 weeks. These are the key things we think they should be focusing on, and you can support them with:

- **Attendance** – it is crucial that your child attends school every day they possibly can (Covid permitting) to make sure they can get as much teaching and support from their teachers as possible.
- **Attitude to learning** – please encourage your child to make sure that they make the most out of each lesson by being prepared for it by having the correct equipment, completed all tasks set for homework and most importantly focused during the whole of the lesson.
- **Revision** – revision should start now, not in the weeks before the exam. You can help by testing them using their revision notes, revision guides or exercise books. Regular, short tests done over the next few months will make a huge difference to their confidence in their exams. Even if you are not certain on the content yourself, use the revision guides and websites to assist, but fundamentally if your child is able to fluently explain content to you then this shows their subject competency.

The mock exams are the next very important milestone in your child's life. Once we are back, they are only 27 school days away. They will be getting their mock exam timetable in mid-January which will also explain the arrangements for the mock exam period.

Your child's teacher will be explaining how they should be preparing for these mocks at the start of next term and what they should focus their revision on. Please support them by helping to set up a revision plan, as well as helping in the revision process itself. More information on how you can help them revise can be found on our website here: <https://wgsnitney.org.uk/perch/resources/how-do-we-learn-info-for-parents.pdf>

Your child has also been given a 2-week revision timetable plan for them to use over Christmas. This is a good opportunity for your child to try some new revision techniques and get used to planning their time.

## **Changes to exam arrangements**

Some subjects have already had information regarding changes from the usual assessments.

These are:

### ***Maths***

Students will be given formulae sheet in lessons before the exams to familiarise themselves with it.

### ***English Literature***

There will be a choice of topics or content to reduce the amount needed to be learned for the exam.

### ***Combined Science***

Students will be given a formulae sheet in lessons before the exams to familiarise themselves with it.

### ***Physics***

Students will be given formulae sheet in lessons before the exams to familiarise themselves with it.

### ***History***

There will be a choice of topics or content to reduce the amount needed to be learned for the exam.

### ***Geography***

There will be a choice of topics or content to reduce the amount needed to be learned for the exam.

### ***Art***

There will be no end of year exam and students will only be assessed on their portfolio.

### ***All other GCSES***

Exam boards will provide advance information about focus of the content of the exams.

At the moment, there are no other known changes. We are expecting information from the exam boards on modifications to the content mentioned above on February the 7<sup>th</sup>. Departments will share this with students the following week and ensure that the mock exams reflect any changes to content after this announcement. We will also share this with parents. We are planning mock exams that we believe will not be affected by any changes. If you would like more information about what your child needs to do in a particular subject, please contact your child's teachers for advice. If you have a more general question about the last 15 weeks for your child, please contact their tutor in the first instance.

If you wanted to support your child please guide them to the following websites, as they are good resources for your child to use in nearly all of their GCSEs, with the two subject specific ones highlighted at the end:

**BBC Bitesize:** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/z98jmp3>

**Oak Academy:** <https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-key-stage/key-stage-4>

**Seneca Learning:** <https://app.senecalearning.com/courses?Price=Free>

**Revision World:** <https://revisionworld.com/gcse-revision>

**Education Quizzes:** <https://www.educationquizzes.com/gcse/>

**Mathswatch:** <https://www.mathswatch.co.uk/> (your child will have a school login for this website)

**Educake (Science mainly):** <https://www.educake.co.uk/> (your child will have a school login for this website)

Thank you very much for your ongoing support of your child through these very challenging last two years. We believe that a concerted effort from us all over the last 15 weeks can make sure that the pandemic does not leave a lasting impact on their education, and that all our year 11 students can achieve the grades they need for the next stage of their education and training.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs H. Dobson  
Head of Year 11