

19 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 10 End of Year Examinations: confirmation of dates

Further to my Exeat letter, I am writing to confirm the dates for the End of Year 10 Examinations:

Monday 24 to Friday 28 August 2020, inclusive.

Through these assessments, we seek to ensure meaningful consolidation of Year 10 GCSE course content, mindful of the impact lockdown has had. The College firmly believes that students desire the opportunity to show what they have learned in their GCSE courses so far and deserve to enter Year 11 with meaningful feedback which will help them make efficient progress from the beginning of term. The assessments will be designed for students to access all grades from 9 to 1, relative to the content and skills met so far in each subject course. The ambitions of Year 10 are high, and each student will be mindful of the need to make the most of the time between these assessments and the full set of GCSE Trial Examinations in November.

This week in Tutor Time, students have been given guidance on different approaches to obtaining the right balance of rest and relaxation and will continue to receive support in planning for these assessments over the final weeks of term. In the Study Skills sessions this week, students have been advised to plan for 20 days of revision, with no more than 4-5 hours each day. Next week, we will provide students with an exam timetable and revision lists will be shared with them before the end of term. While this new schedule is a shift in what we are normally used to in the summer, students will have seven weeks' holiday after breaking up from Trinity Term on Friday 3 July, before this week of assessment, and then a further week of holiday to enjoy before returning to school on Monday 7 September.

While it is our hope and expectation that all families will seek to support this new programme of assessments, I recognise that assessments in late August will present some challenges to families in accommodating existing family plans. If parents and carers anticipate significant challenges with this schedule, they should contact me via email (podwyer@sdmail.org.uk); I will enter dialogue with them to find a workable solution.

Thank you in advance for your support and I look forward to sending your full details of the summer assessments in due course.

Yours sincerely,



Mr P O'Dwyer
Head of Middle School