

Our ref: PSG/HLE/KS3 Core Exams

06 March 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Key Stage 3 Core Exams: 29th April to 2nd May 2025

As your child progresses through their education, it is important that they are provided with opportunities to experience formal assessments that help them build the skills and confidence necessary for future academic success.

Between 29th April and 2nd May 2025, Key Stage 3 students will complete exams under exam conditions in core subjects. These exams are designed not only to assess your child's progress but also to help them understand the demands of exams as they approach their GCSEs. By participating in these assessments, students will gain valuable experience in managing time, adhering to exam regulations, and applying what they have learned under timed conditions.

This letter outlines the arrangements for the Key Stage 3 exams.

Exam Schedule

The exams will take place as follows:

Date	8:50 AM	11:15 AM	2:00 PM
Tuesday, 29th April	Year 8 Science	Year 9 Maths Paper 1	Year 7 English
Wednesday, 30th April	Year 7 Science	Year 9 Maths Paper 2	Year 8 English
Thursday, 1st May	Year 8 Maths Paper 1	Year 9 Maths Paper 3	Year 9 English
Friday, 2nd May	Year 9 Science	Year 8 Maths Paper 2	Year 7 Maths

What to Expect

We will be following the guidelines set by the **Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ)**, which ensures a consistent and fair exam environment for all students.

These exams will be held under full exam conditions, allowing students to experience timed exams and practice working within the regulations and rules of formal assessments. This experience will help to build students' confidence when working under these conditions.

...continued



Exam Behaviour Expectations

During the exam period, we expect all students to follow the highest standards of behaviour. This includes:

- Arriving on time for their exam and being seated promptly.
- Wearing full school uniform as per normal school expectations.
- Respecting exam conditions, including maintaining silence during the exam and following all instructions from exam invigilators.
- Maintaining focus throughout the exam duration and refraining from any disruptive behaviour.

It is important that students understand that poor behaviour during exams, such as talking, communicating with other candidates, or cheating, can result in disqualification from the exam and additional sanctions within school.

To comply with exam regulations, mobile phones must be switched off and stored outside the exam hall. Non-intrusive metal detector scans will be conducted before entry to ensure exam integrity.

Preparation for the Exams

To ensure students are well-prepared, it is important that they complete independent revision as recommended by their class teacher. We recommend up to **1 hour of study per day**. This time should be used to complete homework, practice writing longer answers, revise key concepts, and use resources such as online platforms, past papers, and flashcards.

For their exams, students must bring a transparent pencil case containing:

- Black ink or ballpoint pens (no gel pens or blue ink)
- Pencil, sharpener, ruler, and eraser
- A clear (not coloured), label-free water bottle (if needed)
- A calculator (where required for specific subjects)

To help students prepare for the exams, we will hold an assembly prior to the exams to explain the exam rules and procedures.

Your Support

Parental support is key to your child's success in these exams, and we encourage you to continue fostering good study habits at home. Please also take the time to talk to your child about these exams and the expectations outlined above.

We are committed to supporting your child's success. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your child's tutor, subject teacher, or pastoral leader.

Yours sincerely,



Phil Snelling
Vice Principal

