

Date: 30/09/2022

Guiding Year 11 Students Towards Success

Dear parent/carer,

As an academy we are very impressed with how Year 11 have started this academic year and how focussed they are in lessons. Year 11 are role models for the rest of our students and clearly embody the school values of ambition, determination, and respect. We know you will want to support your child through their exam year, so we intend to keep you updated with regular letters like this that let you know what is going on with Year 11.

Arrangements for Pre-Public Examinations

Our first set of practice GCSE examinations (called Pre-Public Examinations or PPEs) will take place in the week beginning Monday 21st November. We will use the results to carefully assess and analyse how students have performed and where teachers need to make plans to close gaps and teach key exam skills. Analysis of past years' results shows that students who do well in these examinations almost always go on to do very well in the summer exams. Your child will be completing guided revision to prepare for these examinations. Please ensure they are completing 1-2 hours study a night at home, that they are going to bed at a sensible time and that they are eating a healthy breakfast (remember Breakfast Club is available every day of the week).

Exam Timetable

Feedback from our previous Year 11 students suggested that receiving their exam timetables in advance would support them with their revision preparation and overall exam readiness. This year we are happy to provide students in Year 11 with their exam timetable 7 weeks ahead of the exam period. As previously stated, exams start on the 21st of November. Please pencil this date into the family calendar as this will be an important time and students will need motivation and support from us all. Students will be receiving a session on revision during tutor time and all revision resources will be posted on subject Google Classroom pages. Students also have their curriculum experience booklets that provide detailed study material and key concepts for each subject.

The timetable for these exams is provided at the end of this letter.

Attendance

Year 11 mock exams start in November. This means that every day missed through absence removes a significant amount of the time your child has with their teachers to help them prepare. Having a day off at this



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stage in Year 11 should be avoided if at all possible as it's certain that vital work will be missed. Of course, we understand that some absence is unavoidable, yet we require all students to take every reasonable step to catch up on missed classwork and speak with their subject teacher to ensure that they have covered all key elements of their curriculum. Every week we will be issuing students who miss any days from the previous week with a catch-up sheet. This catch – up sheet will support students in speaking with teachers and identifying what content they missed and how to catch up. This will enable all students to catch up on vital curriculum content so that when they return, the work is completed and gaps in knowledge are avoided. As the parent/carer, they will be asking you to sign this document so that you are also aware of the work that needs catching up on. If you are concerned about your child having to catch up due to being extremely ill or feeling unable to do so, let me know as soon as possible.

Homework

As a year group, Year 11 students have managed their homework well and are staying on task and meeting deadlines. We encourage students to manage their time at home and plan out their work for the week to ensure that all homework is completed on time. Homework is essential to continue and develop the learning in the classroom, plus it is a great way to have conversation with your child regarding what they are learning and the curriculum they are being taught. Please support us with encouraging homework completion and ensuring that students are undertaking their individual study to maximise their success in their GCSEs.

Maths Homework

Maths homework will be one hour's worth of work on Sparx. This will be set every Thursday then due the following Thursday. The tasks set on Sparx are in line with what is taught in the lessons during the week. However, there is also very useful feature called 'Consolidation'. 'Consolidation' sets tasks based on prior learning to ensure students are constantly recalling prior knowledge. This is especially important for students as the topics in the PPE and the GCSE exam are not entirely focused on content learnt in Year 11, they cover topics that have been taught in Y10 or some basics skills Year 9.

To further support our Year 11 we are also allowing students to access Hegarty Maths which will eventually be phased out at the end of the year as an online homework platform. If students prefer, they can still use Hegarty Maths to search topics and use the videos for revision and independent practice. The tasks completed on Hegarty Maths will be for independent learning and revision.

Science Homework

Tassomai: This is an app and website which we are using to improve key knowledge retention. Students are expected to complete 4 daily goals each week. The daily goals involve answering a series of multiple-choice questions that are focussed on revising topics taught in Year 10. We highly recommend and encourage students to go above and beyond this as the more questions they answer the stronger their knowledge becomes! If students are having any issues with their accounts, they can speak to their science teacher or Ms Wolkowski.

Parent Evening – Thursday 10th November

Parent Evening is an opportunity to talk about your child's progress, achievements, assessment results and ask any questions you may have. We have scheduled it to be early in the year so that you can get timely

information and advice about ensuring your child's GCSE success. More details on the format and booking system for Parents' Evening will be provided nearer the time.

Next Steps After Year 11

We hope and expect that the majority of Year 11 will want to stay with us for the Sixth Form. We have an excellent provision that covers both A-Levels and BTEC courses, with some of the best results in Waltham Forest. All students will complete our Sixth Form enrolment form, so that if they choose to come to us then their transition in September 2023 is quick and easy.

We know that many of Year 11 will want to look elsewhere to see what is available and we will shortly provide students with a list of local college and Sixth Form Open Events. We will also be inviting in speakers from local colleges which offer a range of vocational courses not taught at the academy.

All Year 11 students have been offered a one-to-one meeting with our independent careers advisor, we will complete these meetings shortly and then offer Year 11 the chance to have a second meeting with her if they want one.

If you would like more information on our Sixth Form, please use the link below to explore our school website <https://www.walthamstow-academy.org/sixth-form>

Additional intervention programmes

We have been given funding to allow some of our students to benefit from tuition, without any cost to qualifying parents. We have on offer the following two programmes that will be delivered in the Academy – 'My tutor' and 'School-Led Tuition'. 'My Tutor' is a 12-week programme of online 121 tuition in languages, maths or science. 'School led Tutoring' is a programme of face-to-face teaching in small groups. Our subject leaders will carefully compile a list of students who they believe will benefit from some extra help; students can be selected to close gaps in subject knowledge, subject skills, improve current grades, specialised preparation for exams, developing confidence in subject disciplines etc. Parents and students will shortly be provided with an individual timetable showing the intervention programmes we have chosen for them.

Checking Google Classroom

Walthamstow Academy uses Google Classroom to record homework, provide revision resources and communicate with students. Parents and carers can log on to Google Classroom to check what their child is being asked to do at home and what deadlines they have. By monitoring the work, they have been set, you can help your child to organise their time at home and be involved in their learning journey. If for any reason you cannot currently log on to Google Classroom, then please contact us for guidance and log in details and we will be happy to assist you.

Prom

We are delighted to confirm that Year 11 prom will take place after the GCSE exams have concluded. Students are looking forward to this event, to celebrate completing 5 years at Walthamstow academy and

finishing GCSE exams. This will be a fantastic event and students will be provided with specific information regarding the date, location and ticket prices nearer the time.

Exam Timetable

	Session 1 8:30-10:00		Session 2 10:20-12:20		Session 3 13:10-15:10
Monday 21st November	<p>History</p> <p>(1 hour 20 mins)</p> <p>Geography Paper 1</p> <p>(1 hour 20 mins)</p>		<p>Maths Paper 1 Non-Calculator (1 hour 30 mins)</p>		<p>English Language</p> <p>(1 hour 45 mins)</p>
Tuesday 22nd November	<p>French Writing</p> <p>(1 hour 20 mins)</p> <p>Spanish Writing</p> <p>(1 hour 20 mins)</p>	Break	<p>Computing (1 hour 30 mins)</p> <p>H&SC (1 hour 30 mins)</p>		<p>Biology Paper 1 Combined (1 hour 15 mins)</p> <p>Biology Paper 1 Triple</p> <p>(1 hour 45 mins)</p>

	PE GCSE (1 hour 15 mins)			
Wednesday 23rd November	Geography Paper 2 (1 hour 10 minutes)		Maths Paper 2 Calculator (1 hour 30 mins)	English Literature (1 hour 45 mins)
Thursday 24th November	RE (1 hour)		Chemistry Paper 1 Combined (1 hour 15 mins) Chemistry Paper 1 Triple (1 hour 45 mins)	Music (1 hour 30 mins) Business Studies (1 hour 30 mins) Sociology (1 hour 45 mins)
Friday 25th November	French Reading (1 hour) Spanish Reading (1 hour)		Maths Paper 3 Calculator (1 hour 30 mins)	Physics Paper 1 Combined (1 hour 15mins) Physics Paper 1 Triple (1 hour 45 mins)

We look forward to working with you this year as we guide Year 11 to GCSE success.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Skae	Mr Seed	Ms Hamilton
Principal	Vice-Principal	Head of Year 11

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