

Thursday 5 May 2022

**Ref: Year 11 Exams**

Dear Parent / Carer,

In less than two weeks our Year 11 students will begin their Summer examinations. I write to you to clarify arrangements regarding this important and busy time.

By now our Year 11 students should be revising a total of 2 to 3 hours each evening with this increasing to 5 or 6 hours over a weekend. This would be considered normal for any student preparing for their GCSE's. It is never too late to start and every effort will have a positive impact.

At Weston Secondary School we would like to support your child's efforts at home by making the best use of the time in school they have left. Therefore, from Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May, students will be taking part in revision focussed classes in readiness for their upcoming exams. A copy of the revision timetable is included with this letter and I provide clarification on a number of aspects below as well.

Students should arrive to school in full uniform to sit their examinations and must ensure they have the correct equipment required for each one. This includes a scientific calculator (which they are familiar with using) and comfortable spare writing pens should the one they are using run out. Students should store their equipment in a clear pencil case. They can also take water to drink into the exam room but the container must also be clear and free from any labelling. As always, mobile phones and smart watches cannot be taken into the examination room.

We will be asking students to provide us with their mobile phone numbers so that we can contact them directly if we have not seen them on site by 8:25am. These contact details will be stored securely by Mr Wilkinson and will be disposed of appropriately once the final exam has finished. This has proven effective in the past and enables us to appropriately support each student as necessary. A reminder that the school's phone number is 02380 447820 should you need to contact us in any way.

Morning examinations will start at 8:45am. This means that each student is expected to be sat at their exam desk at 8:45am. We would therefore expect your child to be in school by 8:25am. We are however offering breakfast revision sessions in the relevant subjects from 8:00am onwards for students to ask last minute questions and so teachers

can revisit important concepts and knowledge one final time. Weston Secondary School will provide healthy fruit breakfast platters for students as part of these sessions. In order to concentrate fully students should not enter the exam room hungry or having rushed to make it into school so I highly recommend attending these from 8:00am when appropriate. If they cannot make 8:00am please do ensure your child is on the school site by 8:25am.

Good organisation as described above will help minimise the additional stress your child may feel. Please do consider how you could support your child whether that be through waking them up, feeding them, ensuring they have everything they need and even bringing them into school. Your support can make an important difference.

To accommodate the morning exams, from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May all of Year 11 will have their breaktime at 10:50am instead of 9:50am. They will then have one lesson before their second break between 12:20pm and 12:50pm. Afternoon exams will begin at 1:00pm and this will ensure that students will have finished by the end of the school day in almost all circumstances. Again, students need to ensure they are in the correct place and ready to be called in by 12:50pm with all their equipment in hand and having used the toilet if need be.

Could we please draw your attention now to the attached details of our revision sessions. We hope that the details below provide an indication of how we hope to support our students. It is of huge importance that these sessions are focussed with students working hard and behaving appropriately. Should students not be making best use of this support and impacting on others the school will take robust and appropriate action so as not to impact those who are striving to achieve the best that they can.

The first exams are RE and Computer Science which take place on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May. Students involved with these exams will be working in these subject areas during Periods 4 and 5 on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May instead of attending their normal lessons. All other students will continue to follow their normal timetable. On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May there is an RE breakfast session starting at 8:00am with their exam to begin at 8:45am. All other students will arrive to school by 8:25am and will attend tutor time and periods 1 and 2 as normal. Period 3 will start at 11:20 and students who study Computer Science will have a revision session in readiness for their afternoon exam. All other students will attend Science for the remainder of the day to help prepare them for their Biology exam on Tuesday morning. Students are also welcome to attend Period 6 from 2:50pm and we strongly encourage those who had their Computer Science exam in the afternoon to attend.

On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May we will be offering our fruit breakfast to all students from 8:00am before the Science exam begins at 8:45am. From 11:20am onwards all students will then attend English Periods 3-5 as they prepare for Wednesday's English Language Exam. Our fruit breakfast will once again be offered on Wednesday morning from 8am.

At 8:45am on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June students will sit their third and final Maths exam. After this point the exams become slightly less frequent and therefore there will be times

when not all students will need to be in school. Students who study Geography or Food and Nutrition GCSE's will be working with their teachers in preparation for upcoming exams whilst all other students may go home if they wish. If they do prefer to stay in school, we will find them somewhere suitable to study independently.

The final exam apart from those studying Polish GCSE is Physics and will start at 9:00am on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June following on from a breakfast revision session starting at 8:00am. After this we will look to host a final assembly to say thank you and goodbye to our Year 11 students. This will finish by 12:15pm.

We hope that this details and clarifies the support we are putting in place for our students over the exam period and how you can support your child too. Do please read through the plan carefully and discuss with your child so that they are organised and well prepared.





GCSE Results day will take place on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August and we will provide more details of this in due course.

As always, should you have any further questions please do contact the school by phone or directly to Mr Smith via email as provided at the bottom of this letter.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr S Smith (Director of KS4 Progress and Outcomes)  
Ssmith@westonsecondary.co.uk

## GCSE Exams Guide

<p><b>The day before</b></p>	<p>Have everything ready for the next day and get to bed at a sensible time</p>	
<p><b>8:00am</b></p>	<p>Breakfast Revision Session Fruit available Be in school early but 8:25am at the latest</p>	
<p><b>8:45am</b></p>	<p>Morning Exams start You must be in the room by this time</p>	
<p><b>13:00pm</b></p>	<p>Afternoon Exams start You must be in the room by this time</p>	
<p><b>Equipment you will need</b></p>		
<p>Comfortable black ball-point pens</p>	<p>Clear pencil case</p>	<p>Highlighters</p>



Scientific Calculator

Clear water bottle

