



Year 7 End of Year Examinations

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Dear Parents

With the Year 7 examinations on the horizon, I felt it was important to get in touch to provide some guidance on how pupils can prepare, as well as information regarding the logistics of the examinations.

The examinations will take place between Monday 15 June and Friday 19 June. Please find attached a copy of the examination timetable for your perusal.

These examinations are formative assessments designed to help teachers identify any gaps in pupils' learning. This will help pupils set targets for Year 8 and, to some extent, beyond. It is important to note, the results will not be used to create teaching sets for next academic year. I would also like to take this opportunity to emphasise that, whilst we want all pupils to do their very best, these examinations are not the be-all-and-end-all, but should be seen as an important step on a longer journey.

Pupils will sit examinations in the Q rooms, where each room will be comprised of half a Year 7 form and half a Year 8 form. Each 2 person desk will pair up a Year 7 with a Year 8, by register order, so that there is no chance of pupils copying from the person next to them. I have included both the Year 7 and 8 timetables, as it is important to note that they are slightly different and there will be times when Year 7 have a revision session, but Year 8 are sitting an examination. The expectation here is that all Year 7 pupils come prepared with suitable revision materials, get them out of their bags at the start of the session and do not go back into their bags throughout, to minimise the disruption to their Year 8 buddy.

To support Year 7 to prepare for these examinations, their teachers have compiled subject-specific guidance, which can be found in the attached PowerPoint. Furthermore, any homework set after the half term break will be revision based to alleviate the additional stress of homework that would not be contributing to their examination preparation.

Earlier this half term, I delivered an assembly to Year 7 to reassure and support them ahead of their examinations, focussing on strategies to help them cope with any potential examination stress. The underlying message was to reinforce that I do believe they should care about wanting to do well, and commit some time to revision, but that they are not worth sleepless nights, anxiety or tears and to see them as part of a learning process. Please find attached a PowerPoint created by Young Minds Matter (a mental health support service in Gloucestershire) as this may help you support your son at home.

Finally, please find below key information and requests from the examinations team covering some key logistics for examinations, consistent with expectations for GCSE and A Level examinations:

- Pupils are not allowed to have mobile phones, watches MP3/4 players or any web enabled device on their person. These must be switched off and in their bags.
- Pupils must ensure they have the following equipment: Black pens (bring spares), HB pencils, eraser, pencil sharpener, calculator, ruler, and geometry set. This must be in a clear pencil case/plastic bag.
- Water/non-sugary drinks may be brought in, again, in a clear bottle with no labels.

Kind regards

Zak Hinds

Head of Year 7

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