

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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20th October 2022

Dear Year 11 Parents and Carers

Trial Exams Week, November 15th 2022

I am writing to confirm arrangements for the Year 11 **trial examinations beginning November 15th 2022**, please see the attached timetable and information.

The week will provide students with essential practice for their final GCSE examinations, and help staff to identify any specific areas where individuals, and the year group as a whole, can be given additional support. We also hope that it will strongly encourage students to undertake revision tasks early and help them plan ahead towards their GCSE examinations.

To ensure that students are focused on the correct areas for revision in their subject areas I also attach a summary of the **key topics** that will be covered in each examination.

Students are required to have a number of specific items for examinations and follow the information set out below:

- Exams can **ONLY** be written in **BLACK pen**
- Students require a **scientific calculator**
- Pens/pencils must be in a completely **clear bag** - no patterns or designs
- **Mobile phones are absolutely forbidden** in the exam hall **even if out of sight or in a pocket** and the student risks disqualification
- **Wrist watches** are also forbidden in the exam hall
- If a water bottle is taken into the exam hall it must be clear with NO LABELS
- Students should remember to go to the loo before an exam.

Should you have any queries about exam requirements or regulations there is more information available on the school website, or please contact our Exams Manager, Mrs Emmett.

Alongside the Year 11 support provided by subject staff and after school in the LRC on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, after half-term, **Academic Monitoring Day** (11th November) and the **Staff Training Day** (14th November) will provide an ideal opportunity to finalise preparations for the examinations.

Tutor time has been re-arranged with students developing their study skills with Tutors. This includes additional revision, ensuring that they are fully prepared for examinations by reflecting on their study habits and organising a **weekly revision plan** (example plan attached).

We also highly recommend that students use the many resources available through Office365 via their school email accounts. These include numerous **past papers, revision materials and bespoke resources** for particular classes. **SenecaLearning.com** also provides excellent revision information along with incisive questions to test student understanding, and **BBC Bitesize** and **getrevising.co.uk** are other rich sources of revision.

We are very aware that the next six months can be a real challenge for students, and for their parents and carers, and that we all need to encourage a healthy work-life balance to ensure student success in their final examinations.

Regular exercise and relaxation, healthy eating and stable sleeping patterns all help to ensure that students are able to do their best; the benefits of the removal of social media distractions and no screen time an hour before bed has been scientifically proven.

However, if students undertake regular revision each evening, using a revision planner and all the skills they have developed, they should start to feel more confident about themselves and their examinations.

The school website also has a great deal of useful exam revision information, links and subject guidance:

<http://www.beaminster.dorset.sch.uk/exam-information-1>

Finally, also attached is a **coursework outline** so that you can help to ensure that students are meeting key when key assessment deadlines over the coming months.

As always, please contact your child's Tutor in the first instance should you have any concerns.

Best wishes
Mr Hales