

February 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians

Ref: Year 11 Final Exams

We are rapidly approaching the start of the main GCSE examination period. I have attached a copy of the summer exam timetable for you with this e-mail. We will also be sending an individual timetable home at the start of next half term.

In addition to the exams which will be included on the individual timetable, there will also be exams on the following dates:

Date	Length	Activity
20 th March	All day	Dance Moderation
24 th March	All day	Drama Performance
22 nd & 23 rd April	All day	Art Exam
23 rd April – 1 st May		MFL Speaking Exams (Teachers will give students details of their exam date)
End April	All day	PE Moderation

GCSE Contingency Day

The full GCSE exam period is Monday 11th May through to Wednesday 24th June. Wednesday 24th June has been designated as a contingency day by the government. This is in order to provide a space for exams to be rescheduled in the unlikely event of a national incident preventing large numbers of students sitting them on the scheduled day. We have been advised that **all students must be available to take examinations each day up to and including Wednesday 24th June** - so please do not book any time away before Thursday 25th June.

Revision

Almost all the Non-Examined Assessment (coursework) has now been completed in the subjects where it still exists and the focus for lessons next term will be on revision. Our expectation is that students should be completing a minimum of 2-3 hours of revision per night in the run up to the Easter Break. They will be provided with detailed guidance on how to prepare for their examinations both by their subject teachers and Heads of House. Each subject has also provided students with specific details of their exams and the topics which need to be revised. Revision guides are also available to purchase in some subjects from Student Services.

The link below will take you to the Parents' Information section of the school website. You will be able to download a copy of the presentation from the 'How to revise effectively evening' as well as the Year 11 Revision Booklet. This document contains links to the GCSE specification for each subject which lists the content which needs to be learnt:

<http://gillotts.oxon.sch.uk/teaching-and-learning/exam-information>

Year 11 revision sessions

There is also a link on the school website to the revision sessions which are taking place in subjects outside normal lesson time. This can be accessed by clicking on the link below:

[Year 11 Revision Sessions](#)

During the Half Term holiday

We would like to recommend that all Year 11 students create a revision schedule for the Half Term break and revise a minimum of **three hours** per day. This is a good amount of time to help develop their knowledge in each subject area, whilst giving them free time to relax.

End of normal lessons

It is our experience that students prepare better for their examinations by combining home study with a structured school-based revision programme. It is the case that more of the 9-1 GCSE exams are now taking place before the May Half Term holiday than in the past (with around half the exams now being in May). Combined with the additional content which the students need to revise, we decided last year to bring forward the date after which Year 11 students will no longer be required to attend normal lessons. This worked very well and we will repeat this again this year – with the final date when students are required to attend school as normal being Thursday 7th May (note Friday 8th May is a Bank Holiday).

From Monday 11th May, students will only need to attend school if they have an exam or if they have a scheduled revision lesson. We will be sending home a timetable of revision lessons during the ‘study leave’ period and we expect all students to attend these sessions unless they have an exam.

End of Year 11 celebrations

We will be holding the Year 11 Leavers’ Assembly and shirt signing session on Thursday 7th May. It is important that all students conduct themselves very sensibly on this day and during their remaining time at school. The end of the exam period will be followed by the Year 11 Prom on Friday 19th June.

Whilst we are really looking forward to celebrating the end of their time at Gillotts School with Year 11, it is important to draw your attention to the fact that we expect excellent standards of behaviour across the whole of this period. Students will not be allowed to attend the Prom if they do not meet our expectations. These include:

- excellent attendance over the next few months (unless there is a clear reason for absence)
- excellent behaviour, including on Thursday 7th May (Leavers’ Assembly Day)
- attending all school detentions

It is also likely to be the case that any student who misbehaves on Thursday 7th will be required to attend school as normal during the rest of Term 5 rather than being allowed to revise at home.

We will also be holding a Year 11 photograph on the last PSHE Day of the year (Wednesday 25th March). Students will only be allowed to participate in this event if they attend the morning sessions.

Book returns

If your child has borrowed any textbooks or other learning resources from school these will need to be returned to the OLC. I would like to encourage students to return their textbooks after the end of their final examination in each subject.

Picking up exam results

Students will be able to pick up their GCSE results from the School Hall at 10.30am on Thursday 20th August. If someone else will be picking up the results they will need to be provided with a signed letter on the student's behalf. Also, if you would like the results to be posted or will be moving house over the summer please can you let the House Base know as soon as possible.

Seeking help and support

We are aware that it can be a stressful period for some students and I would like to encourage you to contact your son/daughter's tutor or subject teachers if you have any concerns. It is also important that students build relaxation time into their revision programme and get plenty of sleep.

Please click on the [link](#) to complete the reply form by Monday 9th March 2019.

We wish your sons and daughters every success in their exams.

Yours faithfully,

E.J. Newbold

Dr Newbold
Deputy Headteacher