

Year 11 – IT Systems, Homework and Mock Exams

Dear Year 11 Parents/ Guardians,

I hope that your child's first couple of weeks at Gillotts School have been enjoyable ones despite or the challenges posed by the Coronavirus pandemic. We are very pleased with the start that Year 11 have made to the new school year.

I am writing to provide you with information about two key elements which support the learning process: our IT systems and homework. I will also provide you with details of how your child may change an option subject if they are considering doing so.

1. IT Systems

BYOD

As you will know from the information you received from us before your child joined the school, we require all students to bring a mobile device into school to support teaching and learning. This would, in normal circumstances, bring significant additional opportunities because students can make use of their device to connect to the internet as and when they need to:

- Online quizzes for immediate feedback on learning
- Accessing shared lesson and homework resources in Google Classroom
- Photographing/videoing practical work
- Research
- Accessing specific learning resources, e.g. Maths Watch and Vocab Express
- Accessing GCSE past papers and mark schemes

However, the changes which we have had to make to how the school is organised and how children learn as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic has meant that mobile devices are even more important than usual. Almost all assessed work will be completed and submitted electronically. This work will then be marked online by teachers and returned to the students on their devices.

It is therefore essential that your child has a fully charged mobile device in school every day and has access to a fixed computer or mobile device at home. Bearing in mind that the students will be completing work on this device we are strongly recommending that this device has a larger screen than a mobile device – e.g. a Chromebook, laptop or iPad.

Our IT Services team will be spending the next week ensuring that all students are connected to the school wifi system. This is a filtered system which means that students cannot access inappropriate website. Our BYOD Code of Conduct (attached) requires students to use the wifi when in school. If your child is still having problems getting connected, they can contact our IT Services for support by following the instructions on the IT summary document which is also attached to this e-mail. This summary also outlines the key Google applications which our students use and provides links to introductory videos on each of these.

Google Classroom

Google Classroom is a very important application which allows teachers to set work and share resources with the students in their class. It also allows students to complete the work online and submit it to their teachers for marking and feedback.

Although students will be required to write the details of homework set in their Student Planners, the homework itself will be set on Google Classroom. It is therefore essential that your child understands how to use it. If s/he is unsure, please watch through the instruction video with them. If they still need help, they should discuss this with their form tutor.

2. Homework

We believe that homework is a very important part of the learning process. This is, in part, to support the teaching and learning which takes place in school. It also helps our students develop the independent learning skills that will support them in their post-16 studies and adult life.

Homework is set according to a homework timetable and is recorded in the Student Planner. The details which your child should record include:

- description of the task
- date the task was set
- date when it is due
- initials of the teacher who has set the homework

The homework itself and any resources required to complete it will be posted by your child's teacher on Google Classroom. The students will receive a notification of this in their e-mail in box and will also be able to see it in the class folders in Google Classroom. It is important that your child follows the instructions given by their teacher.

It is an absolute requirement that homework is completed and submitted on the deadline set. The expectation is that students spend at least 2 hours per night on homework in Year 11.

The table below shows the number of times homework should be set in each subject per fortnight and the approximate time it should take:

Subject	Year Group	Frequency	Time (Approximate)
English	Year 10	Weekly	1 hour per week
	Year 11	Weekly	1 hour per week
Maths	Year 10	2 x Weekly	1 hour per week
	Year 11	2 x Weekly	1 hour per week
Science	Year 10	Weekly	1 hour per week
	Year 11	Weekly	1 hour per week
RS	Year 10	Fortnightly	1 hour per fortnight
	Year 11	Fortnightly	1 hour per fortnight
Option subjects	Year 10	Weekly	1 hour per week
	Year 11	Weekly	1 hour per week

The school homework timetable can be found on our school website by clicking on the link below:

<http://gillotts.oxon.sch.uk/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/overview>

Your child should know which class they are in for each subject as this is recorded on the front of their exercise books and on the printed copy of their timetable which has been stuck in their planner. If they are still unsure, please contact your child's tutor who will be able to help.

3. Mock Exams and Reports

We will be sending out the first set of Year 11 reports on 15th October. This will include a current grade and progress towards target indicator for each subject.

The key mock exam periods are shown below:

Dates	Subjects
16 th -20 th November 2020	English Language, English Literature and Maths (1 st set)
6 th -22 nd January 2021	All subjects apart from English and Maths
22 nd -26 th February 2021	English Language, English Literature and Maths (2 nd set)

Further details about each of these sets of exams will be sent out with plenty of notice before they take place.

4. Year 11 Revision and Catch-up Sessions

We are, of course, fully aware of student and parent concerns about the impact of the Lockdown and school closure on student progress. While we did our best to maintain teaching and assessment during this period, inevitably students will not have been as well supported as they normally would have been.

I would like to reassure you that we are doing everything we can to ensure that any gaps in student knowledge and understanding are filled and that they receive as much exam practice as possible over the next few months. To support this, many subjects are going to provide additional sessions both during lunchtime and afterschool.

We are currently working on finalising this schedule and we will send out early next week with the intention that the sessions start from Monday 21st September. Please do be assured, however, that in the case of subjects where additional sessions are not being offered these subjects are very confident that they can provide the additional support and help in other ways.

As always, if you do have any questions about any of these matters, please contact your child's form tutor in the first instance.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Newbold
Deputy Head