

## Year 11 – IT Systems, Homework and Mock Exams

Dear Year 11 Parents/ Guardians,

I hope that your child's first week back at Gillotts School has been an enjoyable one despite the challenges posed by the continuing 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 regarding revision sessions we are offering and also a brief update on possible changes to the GCSEs this year.

### 1. IT Systems

#### **BYOD**

As you will know we require all students to bring a large-screen mobile device (Chromebook, laptop or tablet) into school to support teaching and learning. This will bring significant additional opportunities because students can make use of their device to connect to the internet as and when they need to:

- Use 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

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

We have spent the last few days making sure that all Year 11 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 or staying connected, they can contact our IT Services for support either by sending an e-mail to: [itservices@gillotts.org.uk](mailto:itservices@gillotts.org.uk) or by raising the issue with their form tutor.

#### **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. It is also the way in which teachers set homework – with the details of the homework and the due date being shared with the students via this application.

## 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.

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 around 2-3 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:

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Time (Approximate)</b>
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 14<sup>th</sup> October. This will include a current grade and progress towards target indicator for each subject.

The key mock exam periods are shown below:

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Subjects</b>
15 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup> November 2021	English Language, English Literature and Maths (1 <sup>st</sup> set)
10 <sup>th</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	All subjects apart from English and Maths
28 <sup>th</sup> February- 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	English Language, English Literature and Maths (2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 Sessions

The link below will take you to a page on the school website. This page contains a range of revision resources and also a link (at the bottom of the page) to the Year 11 revision/support sessions schedule:

<https://gillotts.org.uk/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/years10-11/year-11-revision>

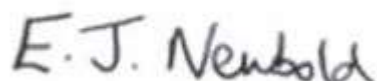
If you cannot access the link directly by clicking on it, please copy and paste it into your web browser.

#### 5. Changes to GCSE and other qualifications for 2021-22

As a result of the impact of the pandemic over the past 18 months, the government is planning to make changes to the content and structure of some of the GCSE exams being taken next summer. We are still awaiting the final details of these changes but I will be writing to you again next week to update you on what we know so far. I will also provide details of the changes to the non-examined assessment (NEA) components of the qualifications which have been confirmed.

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