

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

Dear Year 11 Parents/ Guardians,

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.

### 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. These 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

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.

Our BYOD Code of Conduct (attached) requires students to use the wifi when in school. This is a filtered system and students can only access age appropriate websites when connected to it. 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.

As all homework will be set on Google Classroom, it is essential that your child understands how to use it. If they are 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.

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. In the run up to the mock exams in January, the volume of homework will be reduced in order to provide students with more time to revise. Structured revision homework will be set in some subjects while other subjects will expect students to follow their own revision programme (with support). This will also be the case in the run up to the final GCSE exams next summer.

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:

<https://gillotts.org.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 15<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:

Dates	Subjects
29th-30th November 2024	Year 11 Mock Art exam
9th-31st January 2024	Year 11 Mock exams (all subjects expect art)
19th-23rd February 2024	Y11 MFL Mock Speaking exams
26th February-1st March 2024	Year 11 second set of Mock exams (English only)

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

Many subjects will also be running revision sessions at lunchtime and after school. It is important to note that these are 'extras' which subjects are not required to do. In the case of subjects where these sessions are not being offered they will also be preparing their students thoroughly for their mock and final exams.

The Yr 11 Revision Schedule can be found [here](#) (this is a live document and may be updated).

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