

## Year 9 Exams

**(Friday 7th June to Thursday 20th June 2024)**

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Year 9 students will be sitting internal exams between Friday 7th June and Thursday 20th June 2024. These will be taking place in all core subjects (English, Mathematics, RS and Science) as well as in the subjects which students have opted for at GCSE (where they have been studying these subjects in Year 9).

These option subjects include: Art & Design, Design Technology, Drama, Food, French, Geography, German, History, Music and Spanish. They will not have exams in PE (where no theory has yet been taught) or in new subjects such as Child Development and Sociology.

As they will only have exams in the option subjects which they have chosen, and because different students have opted for different subjects, we will be providing the students with an individual exam timetable – like they will get for their final GCSE exams. We have attached a link to the overall [exams timetable](#) so you can see when each of the exams will be taking place and also to the [Yr 9 Exams Final Instructions Presentation](#).

The intention of this set of exams is to support the students with their preparation for their final GCSEs. This includes:

- giving them an earlier experience of sitting formal exams in the School Hall (or other more formal venues)
- getting the students to develop and practice revision skills
- helping the students develop their exam skills

We are currently in the process of updating the Year 9 Exam Booklet which includes details of the topics which will be examined in each subject along with some 'top tips' on revision. Once completed it can be accessed by clicking on this [link](#) or by visiting our website: <https://gillotts.org.uk/teaching-and-learning/exam-information>.

We will also e-mail a copy of this booklet to each student and yourselves once it is completed. Your child's teachers will also go through what they need to revise and help them develop revision skills. They will also post this material on Google Classroom.

There will not be any 'study leave' during the exam period and students should attend their lessons as normal unless they are in an exam. If students are taking their exams in venues other than their normal classrooms or the School Hall we will make sure that they are clear about where these will be.

As a result of the timing of the Year 11 GCSE exams, some of the Year 9 exams in the first few days of the exam period will take place in classrooms rather than the School Hall. This has also affected the length of some of these exams as classroom-based ones need to follow the one hour length of a teaching period (and some students have additional time for their exams). We will ensure that students are clear about the venue for each of their exams.

If an exam is scheduled to take place in the School Hall they should arrive at least 10 minutes before the start of the exam (8.35am for an 8.45am start, 1.20pm for a 1.30pm start).

In terms of equipment, students should ensure that they bring the following equipment to every exam:

Two black biros or pens

Two pencils

A ruler (preferably 30 cm), rubber, pencil sharpener, protractor & compass

A calculator

A set of colouring pencils

All equipment must be kept in a clear pencil case or plastic bag.

Any drinks bottles should be completely clear.

All mobile devices and watches will need to be handed in at the start of the exam when it is taken in the School Hall. In exams taken in classrooms, these devices need to be kept in the students' bags.

In terms of the option choices your child has made, unless you have heard from the school regarding any issues with your child's choices, these will be the ones your child will be taking exams in. Where changes have had to be made to option choices the final set of choices would have been confirmed to you by the school. While there will be opportunities for students to make further changes to their option choices after the Year 9 exams this process will not be available until after these exams. Your child will be able to check their option choices on their individual exam timetables which will be provided to them as well as from the reply confirmation you would have received from the Options Choice Form that you submitted. However, if you have any queries please contact Miss Pearson:

[kpearson@gillotts.org.uk](mailto:kpearson@gillotts.org.uk)

We are aware that it can be a stressful period for some students and I would like to encourage you to contact your child'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.

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

Yours faithfully,



**Dr E J Newbold**

Deputy Head