

6<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

As I am sure you are aware, Year 11 are scheduled to sit Progress Examinations from Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October. This process is an incredibly useful experience for students as it provides an opportunity for them to understand how formal examinations are delivered and allows staff to get a clear idea of student performance. At this stage we are fully anticipating that all Year 11 students will sit their GCSEs in the summer term of 2021, **but cannot overlook that there may be a requirement for some form of Centre Assessed Grade. The Progress Examinations will provide solid evidence of student achievement, so it is essential that students prepare and apply themselves fully.**

In order to support Year 11 students with this process, we will be running Curriculum Development days from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> to Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October. The intent of this enrichment activity is to allow staff to deliver in depth sessions that will cover key examination content and opportunities to develop and refine key skills. We feel this is particularly important and will support the students following the period of enforced school closure last year. Students will be in each of their subjects for a full day working with their usual class teacher or other subject specialists. All of our usual expectations apply and students should arrive fully equipped for learning. During this time, Year 11 will not take part in PE so students need to be in full school uniform each day. This will also be the case for the duration of the Progress Examinations. During this time Year 11 need to arrive by 8.55am but will have an earlier finish time of 3.10pm. If there are any students who need to be supervised on-site prior to their normal finish time of 3.30pm we will support this.

Every student has today been given a copy of their Progress Examination Timetable. A copy of this is also available on the school website and attached to this email. Please ensure that you familiarise yourself with end times of examinations as there are a number that finish after 2.50pm. It is crucial that your child attends all progress examinations. There will be no equipment provided for students so it is essential that the correct equipment is brought to every examination; this includes a calculator, pen, pencil, protractor, compass and ruler. All stationery must be in a clear plastic pencil case or bag. All phones and watches must be switched off and left in student's bags. Failure to do so may result in exclusion from future examinations. When students are not in examinations, they will be in normal lessons, including Period 5.

All examinations will still follow current public health guidelines relating to COVID-19, including the cleaning of desks before each examination. The majority of examinations will take place in the Main Hall, but we have scheduled two examinations on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October which is a school INSET Day. This allows Year 11 to experience the full experience they are likely to have next summer with a full cohort examination in the Sports Centre. Please ensure your son/daughter attends on this day following the guidance above. Once the final examination has finished they will be free to go home.

Science Practical Skills will be assessed in the classroom during the first Science lesson of week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020 under examination conditions and will form part of the final grade achieved in this round of papers. This will give students the opportunity to answer questions based upon the Required Practical Work for Paper 1 for each of the 3 Sciences.

Yours Faithfully,

E Huet  
Assistant Headteacher-Head of Upper School