

Dear Parents/Carers,

Our Year 10 students will be sitting their cumulative assessments across terms 2-3. Mock exams for Year 10 are scheduled for the summer term, and we will provide detailed information closer to the time.

The cumulative assessments will assess students' knowledge and understanding of the content they have covered in these subjects to date. Students will receive dates of these assessments from their class teachers. Assessments will take place in classrooms with class teachers for each subject during normal timetabled lessons. Students entitled to access arrangements will sit their assessments in their normal classroom and the class teacher will oversee the arrangement as their normal way of working. Students entitled to higher level arrangements will carry out their assessments in a separate venue to ensure they can access their support in an appropriate environment.

Whilst these assessments are internal, rather than the externally assessed ones that are taken at the end of Year 11 and Year 13, it is nevertheless important that students take them seriously and engage fully in revising at home and in all the revision activities their teachers will deliver in lessons. Revision really helps students consolidate learning, builds their confidence, and embeds the core knowledge they will need for future success in these subjects. There is no such thing as being 'bad at revision' - it is a skill that needs lots of practice for students to become efficient at it and it takes time – the main thing is to persevere and use the techniques recommended by their subject teachers and in this Revision Guide which are tried and tested, and often also supported by research into memory and retrieval.

These assessments are also an excellent opportunity for students to become more accustomed at completing assessments in formal conditions, something we want them to feel confident and relaxed about later on in their school careers. At the same time, we must stress that we do not want students to get unnecessarily worried about the assessments, and we ask for your support here. Above all else, the assessments are a valuable opportunity for teachers to assess the areas students have grasped well and those where further consolidation may still be required. In the current climate, these assessments will also be particularly useful to help teachers identify any gaps in learning that may have developed recently and help them to address these with students.

However, it really is not the end of the world if an assessment does not go as well as expected. Revision at home is important, but it is equally important not to over-do-it. We suggest that an average of 60 minutes of revision per night during the couple of weeks before these assessments will be plenty for students to be well-prepared, assuming that they have been working hard in lessons. These 60 minutes of revision should be broken down into 3 periods of 20 minutes, in 3 different subjects. We ask our subject staff that when homework is set, it relates directly to the assessments to support students' revision as much as possible. Please do take the time to help your child prepare for these assessments.

Some things you could do to support them are:

- Reassure them about the exams – we all want them to do their best but if they go wrong, it is not the end of the world;
- Read through this Revision Guide together to understand what is expected of them in each assessment and recommendations about revision. Encourage them to talk to you about different subjects and topics;
- Talk to your child about any subjects they are more worried about and consider creating a little more time for these subjects in their revision plan. Encourage them to speak to their teachers if they are worried or have questions;
- Create a revision timetable (see template included) – aim for 60 minutes per day – this 60 minutes of revision is best completed as 3 x 20 min blocks in 3 different subjects, with a break in between the blocks;
- Test your child on what they have learnt by asking them questions based on the content in their curriculum booklets or any other recommended techniques from the Revision Guide;
- Encourage your child to pin up key definitions and concepts on post-it notes around their room;
- Think about creating a separate folder for revision materials, revision notes, revision quizzes and exam questions.

To help you support your child with their revision in Year 10, please use the information in this Revision Guide that students will also receive a copy of. This booklet contains the topics the assessments will cover, suggested revision activities and where to go for more help. If your child loses their booklet, this can be accessed electronically via Teams.

Once papers have been completed, marked, and moderated, we will report your child's percentage score on each exam. We will also report the average (mean) percentage – these will be sent in the next set of reports. For any subject-specific queries, please contact your child's teacher for that subject. For any other more overarching queries relating to the exams, please get in touch with your child's Head of Year. Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish your child the best of luck with their assessments and encourage them to speak with subject teachers, their Form Tutor, Pastoral Leader or Guidance Manager if they have any worries or questions.

Yours sincerely,

Karen Davey
Deputy Headteacher