

"Leaders, staff and governors share a passionate commitment to raise the aspirations and achievement of all the students who attend the school."
Ofsted

16 February 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

As part of the support we offer all Year 11 students, we will soon be running our next set of Synoptic Assessments in preparation for the summer exams.

Please find attached the Synoptic Timetable overview. Students will also receive a personalised timetable after half-term. These examinations are designed to support students with their learning, generating high-quality feedback they can act upon to make further improvements before the final exams. In order to accommodate all the exams whilst minimising the disruption to normal curriculum time, it has been necessary to start the exams a couple of days earlier than advertised. This will be a demanding week for the students, but will help to prepare them for the exam congestion they will face in the summer.

It is important to note that the contingency plans for summer exams we wrote to you about in November and again last week are still in place – please click [here](#) for more information – and as such **synoptic exams may be used as evidence to inform a Teacher Assessed Grade in the event that the Summer exams cannot go ahead.**

Again, please be reassured that the purpose of these exams is to provide high-quality feedback for students to improve their knowledge and skill. We are not conducting them for the purpose of generating evidence.

As part of our commitment to putting students first in every decision we make, I would also like to assure you about the following:

- **Homework** will be revision based, with no additional work set beyond direct examination preparation in the build up to the exams.
- **Revision** will continue to be a focus in lessons and in tutor time so students are fully aware of **what** they need to revise and **how** to do this.
- **Intervention** will continue to run before and after the synoptic exams, but will pause during the exam period itself.
- **Tutor time** will focus on how they can look after themselves and manage the stress of exams.



Your support is always appreciated before, during and after exam periods with helping the students to look after themselves effectively:

- Where possible, students should have a **quiet place to work** at home. If this is not possible, we can provide spaces in school.
- They should be supported in **managing distractions**, especially notifications from mobile devices.
- Ensure they have all the **resources** they need, such as revision guides, flashcards, blank paper, different coloured pens etc.
- They should take **regular breaks** during revision. Little and often is the best approach.
- Encourage them to get some **fresh air** during these breaks. **Exercise**, even something as simple as a short walk, is a great way to look after themselves.
- Ensure they **do not give up** extra-curricular activities that they enjoy. It is not effective to sit and revise all day, every day.
- They should **eat healthily**. Healthy body, healthy mind.
- They should **avoid energy drinks**. They are not effective.
- They should go to sleep at an appropriate time. They should try to maintain their **normal school routine** during exam periods.
- **Test** them as much as possible, using their revision guides to help you.
- Encourage them to **revise collaboratively**, provided they are able to manage the distractions effectively!
- Follow a **revision timetable**. Tutors will support them in creating these.

As always may I thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D Moroney', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr Moroney
Year 11 College Director

Year 11 Synoptic Assessments

	10th March	11th March	14th March	15th March	16th March	17th March	18th March
	Thursday	Friday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 & 2	Spanish - Reading & Writing H: 135 mins / F: 105 mins Media 90 minutes	Maths - Non calculator 90 minutes	English Language 105 minutes	Maths - Calculator 90 minutes	Geography Paper 2 - 45 minutes History - Paper 3 80 minutes	Science - Physics Combined Sci - 70 minutes Triple H & F - 105 minutes	Maths - Calculator 90 minutes
Break							
3							
Lunch							
P4 & 5	Geography Paper 1 - 90 minutes History Paper 1 - 80 minutes	Sociology 105 minutes	Science - Biology Combined Sci - 70 minutes Triple H & F - 105 minutes	English Literature 105 minutes	Science - Chemistry Combined Sci - 70 minutes Triple H & F - 105 minutes	RE - Philosophy & Ethics 120 minutes Further Maths 105 minutes	Psychology 90 minutes Further Maths 105 minutes