

1 March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 11 March Update

I write to inform of some important dates and information for this spring and summer.

Internal Exams; By doing internal, practice exams students are becoming more confident about the format, time management and success criteria of each exam paper in their subjects. Based on current exam performance, teachers have one final chance to provide fresh, constructive feedback on how each student can further improve their performance.

Equipment; May we ask for your support in ensuring students always bring the right equipment (and spares) to exams and lessons. Students must also bring useful revision materials to school, ready to use time wisely whenever they can e.g., in PSHE or RP lesson times.

Revision and homework; Regular revision is vital now. Your child could record key words, dates or formulae into their phone and listen back or link up with a friend after school and revise together, in person or online. Students have been shown how to make mind maps and transform information, to then test their recall of detail. We appreciate the help you provide at home when your child needs support or encouragement with revision.

Booster lessons and sessions: Teachers are offering a variety of lunchtime, after-school, Easter and Saturday sessions. This short-term sacrifice of some free time now will help students do their best in the summer. You may be contacted about Easter revision workshops for your child during the next four weeks, before term ends, so that you can organise transport for these sessions if needed. Positive prom points are awarded for attending.

Easter break: This is time out of school to be planned and used carefully for rest and revision. Homework will be set to guide students' studies based on feedback from current exams.

INSET day: Year 11 students are expected to attend College on 19 April as teachers will fit their own training around important preparatory work with students approaching their GCSEs.

Exam timetable: Do look ahead at your child's exam schedule in the summer term by reviewing his/her exam schedule on Arbor. Dates and times of many 2024 GCSE papers are already visible. Some early exams, before the main series, such as MFL speaking tests, or all-day art exams etc may not appear just yet. You will see that students may have more than one GCSE exam on a single day. The exams office will send home detailed information on national requirements and regulations of public exams after Easter. Please read through this letter together with your child when it arrives.

Attendance and Uniform; Students are expected to attend school full-time throughout the main exam season in correct school uniform. Students stay focused on the exam preparation much better this way, working with their specialist teachers in lessons.

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Celebration and Farewell; On Friday 14 June, we will hold our celebration assembly and lunch with the year group. After this date, students will only attend school for their revision sessions and actual exams. Different students will have different dates for their last GCSE exam, depending on the subject courses they study. As you know, we will gather again for our Prom on Thursday 4 July.

Sixth Form Transition; In July, we will welcome many Year 11 students into MRC Sixth Form on two induction days. Subject teachers will introduce students to their chosen courses and Sixth Form life in general. Dates tbc.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Fiona Lunskey

Assistant Principal Raising Standards