

24th May 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 9 Summer Examination Season

The summer examination season for all Key stage 4 students will be running next Term. For Year 9 this will be from Monday 10th June to Friday 28th June 2019.

The key aims of these exams are:

- To provide students with a realistic experience to help them in their preparations for formal external examinations further up the school;
- To support students in finding the most effective ways of revising and learning content covered within lessons, something that is critical to success;
- To provide an assessment of a student's performance in examination conditions; this will help form part of the overall assessment of their progress and a number of subjects will use these to help inform their setting of classes from September.

There will be 2 types of exam:

1. Those set by United Learning that all students in UL schools nationally will complete in core subjects: English, Maths, Science (and Geography for those that have opted for it). These will be in the Sports Hall.
2. Those set internally by subject teachers (Options Subjects) will be sat in class during lesson times.

The complete timetable of exams is attached to this letter.

Below is information about the basic equipment that students will be expected to provide, the procedures and exam regulations that they will need to follow and some tips to support revision. This information is shared with students through lessons and an assembly.

Subject teachers will provide direction as to the nature of the assessment within each area and the specific lesson where these are conducted during lesson time for the option subjects.

ESSENTIAL EXAM EQUIPMENT AND REQUIRED BEHAVIOUR	
• Black Pens (2 minimum) • Pencil (1 minimum) • Rubber	• Pencil Sharpener • Ruler • Other equipment as indicated by subject area
Only clear plastic pencil cases or loose equipment are permitted on desks Students are welcome to have a bottle of water – this must have no labels or writing on it No electronic devices are permitted in the exam hall, all bags will be left at the back of the room There must be no talking or communication once inside the exam room	



Principal Sarah Pringle

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How can Parents/Carers help?

An important part of the process is the support from Parents/Carers in helping students revise and prepare for examinations effectively. This can include working with them:

- To plan their revision and monitor how they are using their time;
- To try out the range of strategies shown below, to help identify the most effective for them;
- By providing a quiet place to study, where possible, free from distractions;
- Ensuring they have a good night's sleep and something to eat in the morning;
- Ensuring they have the correct equipment and remind students of the expectations and rules;
- Assisting with effective revision – see below and the work set by subject teachers on Show My Homework

Effective Revision – for this to happen the 3 Rs need to be followed:

	What it means	Suggested Strategies
Revising	The amending, editing, reworking and addition of notes	Mind Maps, Revision Cards, Revision Sheets, Knowledge Organiser, Post It's....
Reviewing	The re-reading of notes for recall	Using your revision notes, rather than your original class books Using revision guides and posters
Remembering	The recall and memorising of information – ACTIVE REVISION Parents/Carers, siblings and friends can all help with this!	Explain your work to someone else; Repeat notes aloud over and over again; re do past assessments or questions – ask others to test you; Record yourself and listen back; Online quizzes on Bitesize, Hegarty, Doodle and other websites

Simply reading class books is not efficient nor effective. Through assemblies, tutor time and subject lessons revision tips and ideas will be provided.

There are many useful and helpful websites these include:

Bitesize revision: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/zw8qpbk>

BBC Newsbeat: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WdKQxi0_Ogc

9 ways to revise more effectively: <https://www.theguardian.com/teacher-network/2016/apr/19/students-revise-exams-revision-science>

Revision tips backed by research: <https://www.tes.com/news/gcse-revision-tips-research>

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

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Deputy Headteachers

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