



TANFIELD
SCHOOL

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19th December 2022

Upcoming real GCSE exams

Dear Parent/Carer,

We were very pleased with the effort and application that all of our Y11 students showed in their recent mock exams. It was evident that students had revised and prepared for their assessments effectively. We really appreciate the support that you have given at home. This really is a team effort.

The experience of completing formal mock exams in a calendared window was an important one, as it helps to prepare your child for their summer examinations. Over the course of this term we have encouraged your child to prepare for these exams using a 'little and often' approach. We have asked them to complete Tassomai English, Science and Hegarty Maths each night. They have also been preparing for progress checks. These are past exam questions. The idea behind this approach is that your child gets used to the way examiners ask questions so they will be fully prepared for whatever questions they receive in the summer.

Some of the courses that your child studies have examination units that occur earlier than the summer exam window. As you can see, some are at the end of the second week back. Therefore, some revision will be required over the Christmas holiday. These exams include:

Date	Start	Exam	Duration
Thursday, January 12, 2023	9:00	Music	1:00
Friday, January 13, 2023	9:00	Travel & Tourism	1:15
Monday, January 16, 2023	9:00	Animal Care	1:00
Monday, January 30, 2023	9:00	Engineering Practical Group 1	2:00
	1:30	Health & Social Care	2:00
	1:30	Engineering Practical Group 2	2:00
Tuesday, January 31, 2023	1:30	Enterprise	2:00
Wednesday, February 01, 2023	9:00	Digital IT	1:30
Friday, February 03, 2023	9:00	Engineering	1:30

With the exception of Music (where only 2 students are sitting, due to missing the exam in year 10), your child will be sitting these exams if they study that subject. For some students, this means that they will be sitting exams in 3 different subjects. These exams are different to Maths, English, Science etc because students can re-sit these exams in the summer if they do not do well.

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However, we want our students to go into these exams as well prepared as they possibly can be. We don't want them to have to re-sit. There are 2 main reasons for this:

1. If students get the grades they need in these exams, some of these courses will be finished well before the summer, as the coursework element is already completed. We would then move your child into extra lessons in the subjects that they need more help with. This will increase their chances of getting better grades in those subjects.
2. Students have lots of exams in the summer as it is, therefore, we can lessen the amount of stress on them by getting the grades required in this first sitting, meaning that they will have less exams to do in the summer.

We will be doing everything we can to ensure that your child does well in these exams. They will be given specific revision by their class teachers. However, you can access everything they need on our revision hub:

<https://sites.google.com/tanfieldschool.co.uk/how-to-revise/home>

Our teachers are spending hours and hours populating this site. In particular, they are making videos of model answers so students know how to answer exam questions successfully.

My son, is also taking exams in January and the number one thing I will be doing with him is going over every past exam paper in that subject. I would encourage you to do the same. Once students have learned the content they need to practise answering questions.

Another priority is to ensure that your child maintains a high attendance alongside working to the best of their ability in and out of school. Students need to be in school everyday leading up to the exams.

Finally, there are more general things students can do to prepare for these exams. These include:

- Creating a revision timetable. Research shows that frequent, shorter 20-30 minute spells work best and aid concentration. We, therefore, recommend taking short breaks and testing yourself after each revision topic. We also advise to mix the order of the subjects.
- Find a quiet space to revise with a surface to work on. This means no distractions such as TV, computers, phones, iPads or music.
- Get plenty of rest and have a healthy breakfast on the day of the exam.

Your support at home can make an enormous difference and we want to thank you in advance for everything that you are going to do over the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Clough
Headteacher