

1st May 2024



Preparing for the exams

Dear Parent/carer,

Since I arrived at Tanfield School, almost 7 years ago, I have tried to create a school that I would want my own child to go to. My son sat his GCSE exams last year, therefore, I know the stress that you as parents will be feeling, hoping that they can do their best. Therefore, I want to share with you what we are doing in school to support your child but also what I did at home with my son.

Attendance

This is the most important thing we can do - ensure that our child attends school. We will be putting together a timetable where students receive teaching in other subjects, when they have completed their exams for their timetabled subjects. This is because being taught by a teacher in a classroom is way more effective than studying at home. Students will not be given study leave and every student is expected to attend each day until the day of their last exam. The exam series starts on the 8th May and finishes on the 28th June. Most students, however, will be finished on the 14th June.

Get Exam Ready

We will continue to have Get Exam Ready sessions from 3:05 until 4:00, leading up to and throughout the exam period. During the exam period, the subjects taught during these Get Exam Ready sessions will match the exams the following day/week in order to give students final hints and tips prior to their exam.

It is our expectation that every child attends Get Exam Ready and it is a prerequisite for gaining a ticket to the Examination Group Reward (Prom). If your child must miss Get Exam Ready for an appointment which cannot be rearranged, for example a medical appointment or dental appointment, please contact the school.

Champions Hour

Champions Hour will continue to run from 4:00 until 5:00 each night to give students a quiet place to work with the support of a member of staff. This has been very popular with lots of students attending. Our staff regularly go along to these sessions and give 1:1 help for students who need it.

TANFIELD SCHOOL
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May half term revision sessions

There will be revision sessions running throughout May half term. Our teachers are not paid to deliver these sessions and they give up their own family time to deliver them. They do them because they care about your child and want the best for them. Therefore, please encourage your child to attend as many of these as possible. They have proven to be very successful in the past where there is a marked difference between the final GCSE grades of the students who attended these sessions compared to those who did not.

Morning Sessions

We understand that not all students can get to school by 8:00. However for those who can, breakfast revision sessions will be held for morning exams.

Working Lunch

Working lunch will continue throughout the exam period. Students will have access to Chromebooks and a member of staff will be present to support them.

Working at home

It is important, at this stage, that students are supplementing the work done at school with work done at home. As we are close to the exams, there isn't the time at home to go through every page of a revision guide, for every subject they are studying. Therefore, I got my son to do lots of practice questions/papers. **Testing has been proven time and time again to be the most effective way to prepare for exams.** Over the last 20 years plus, I have seen so many students who know the content but then get confused by an exam question. Unfortunately, the exams don't just say "tell me everything you know about...". Therefore, it is vital that they get used to seeing as many exam questions as possible. I got my son to do at least one paper a night. He could then see what he did and didn't know. For the areas that he didn't know, he used his revision guides, revision videos or revision websites to go back over the information, before having a go at the question again. He also used our [school revision hub](#) because it has everything your child needs to know on it. Students need to space their testing out so we have produced a revision timetable to help students, using the [2,3,5,7 strategy](#) (see attached document). On some evenings there are a number of subjects to revise. We would recommend spending more time on paper 1 revision before the May half term because students will have the May half term to do work on most of the paper 2s and 3s.

We recognise that this is a very tiring time for all involved in these upcoming exams; our fantastic teachers are working many additional hours planning and teaching, our brilliant students are spending many hours inside and outside of school trying to give themselves the best chance of exam success and parents and carers are dealing with the high emotions attached to such an important time in these young peoples' lives.

We understand that during this time, our young people will be tired and often emotional and the reason why we are offering this support is to try to reduce their workload and exam pressure. A revision session with a teacher is many times more effective than revision at home, which means that students who attend all of the sessions above can be assured that they have used their time in school effectively. This alongside well planned revision at home with appropriate rest periods and treats is a recipe for the best exam performance possible.

Finally, our Exam Group Reward (Prom) will be held on the 26th June at the Ramside Hotel. Students have known since September that they needed to hit criteria to earn an invite to this reward event. Students are expected to have 95% attendance, GER attendance and homework completion and have a behaviour ratio of 99%. In exceptional circumstances this criteria will be looked at. If your child is wanting to be part of this reward event, please encourage them to hit this criteria over the coming weeks.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or think we can do something additional to support your child.

Thanks,
Steven

	Am Exam	Pm Exam	Revision
Mon 22 Apr			French writing, Chemistry paper 1, Geography paper 1, Biology paper 1
Tue 23 Apr			
Wed 24 Apr			
Thu 25 Apr			Maths paper 2 and 3, Creative iMedia, English Literature paper 1 and 2
Fri 26 Apr			Hospitality and Catering, History paper 3, Chemistry paper 2, History paper 2, French L&R, H&S Care, Film Studies paper 1
Sat 27 Apr			Geography paper 2, Physics paper 1, History paper 1, Enterprise component 3
Sun 28 Apr			Geography paper 3, Physics paper 2, English Language paper 1 and 2, Film Studies paper 2, Maths paper 1, Sport component 3

Mon 29 Apr			French writing, Chemistry paper 1, Geography paper 1, Biology paper 1
Tue 30 Apr			
Wed 1 May			
Thu 2 May			Maths paper 2 and 3, Creative iMedia, English Literature paper 2, English Literature paper 1, Enterprise component 3
Fri 3 May			Hospitality and Catering, History paper 3, Chemistry paper 2, History paper 2, French L&R, H&S Care, Film Studies paper 1, Sport component 3
Sat 4 May			Geography paper 2, Physics paper 1, History paper 1, Biology paper 1
Sun 5 May			Geography paper 3, Physics paper 2, English Language paper 1 and 2, Film Studies paper 2, Maths paper 1, Enterprise component 3
Mon 6 May			French writing, Chemistry paper 1, Geography paper 1, Sport component 3
Tue 7 May			English Literature paper 1, Biology paper 1, Enterprise component 3
Wed 8 May	Enterprise Component 3		French L&R, H&S Care, Film Studies paper 1, Sport component 3
Thu 9 May	Sport Component 3		Maths paper 2 and 3, Creative iMedia, English Literature paper 2, History paper 1, Biology paper 1
Fri 10 May	Biology Paper 1		Hospitality and Catering, History paper 3, Chemistry paper 2, History paper 2, Maths paper 1, English Literature paper 1
Sat 11 May			Geography paper 1 and 2, Physics paper 1, Chemistry paper 1, French L&R, H&S Care, Film Studies paper 1
Sun 12 May			Geography paper 3, Physics paper 2, English Language paper 1 and 2, Film Studies paper 2, History paper 1, English Literature paper 1

Mon 13 May	English Li Paper 1		French writing, Maths paper 1, French L&R, H&S Care, Film Studies paper 1
Tue 14 May	French L&R	Health and Social Care and film Studies	English Literature paper 2, Chemistry paper 1, Geography paper 1, History paper 1
Wed 15 May	History Paper 1		Maths paper 1
Thu 16 May	Maths Non Calc		Maths paper 2 and 3, Creative iMedia, Physics paper 1, Chemistry paper 1, Geography paper 1
Fri 17 May	Chem Paper 1	Geography Paper 1	Hospitality and Catering, History paper 3, Chemistry paper 2, History paper 2, English Language paper 1, Film Studies paper 2, English Literature paper 2
Sat 18 May			Geography paper 2, French writing
Sun 19 May			Geography paper 3, Physics paper 1 and 2, English Language paper 2, English Literature paper 2
Mon 20 May	English Li Paper 2		English Language paper 1, Film Studies paper 2
Tue 21 May			French writing, Physics paper 1
Wed 22 May	Physics Paper 1		English Language paper 1, Film Studies paper 2
Thu 23 May	English La Paper 1	Film Studies Paper 2	Maths paper 2 and 3, Creative iMedia, French writing
Fri 24 May	French Writing		Hospitality and Catering, History paper 3, Chemistry paper 2, History paper 2
Sat 25 May			Geography paper 2
Sun 26 May			Geography paper 3, Physics paper 2, English Language paper 2

Mon 27 May			
Tue 28 May			Maths paper 2
Wed 29 May			History paper 2
Thu 30 May			Maths paper 3, Creative iMedia, Geography paper 2
Fri 31 May			Hospitality and Catering, History paper 3, Chemistry paper 2, English Language paper 2, Maths paper 2
Sat 1 Jun			History paper 2
Sun 2 Jun			Geography paper 2 and 3, Physics paper 2, Maths paper 2
Mon 3 Jun	Maths Paper 2 Calc		English Language paper 2, History paper 2
Tue 4 Jun	Spanish L&R	Hi Paper 2	Maths paper 3, Creative iMedia, Geography paper 2
Wed 5 Jun	Geography Paper 2		History paper 3, Chemistry paper 2, English Language paper 2
Thu 6 Jun	English La Paper 2		
Fri 7 Jun			Geography paper 3, Physics paper 2, Hospitality and Catering, Maths paper 3, Creative iMedia
Sat 8 Jun			History paper 3, Chemistry paper 2
Sun 9 Jun			Maths paper 3, Creative iMedia
Mon 10 Jun	Maths Paper 3 Calc	Creative iMedia	Geography paper 3, Physics paper 2, History paper 3, Chemistry paper 2
Tue 11 Jun	Chem Paper 2	History Paper 3	
Wed 12 Jun			Geography paper 3, Physics paper 2, Hospitality and Catering

Thu 13 Jun			Geography paper 3 and Physics paper 2
Fri 14 Jun	Geography Paper 3	Physics Paper 2	
Sat 15 Jun			Hospitality and Catering
Sun 16 Jun			
Mon 17 Jun			Hospitality and Catering
Tue 18 Jun			Hospitality and Catering
Wed 19 Jun			Hospitality and Catering
Thu 20 Jun	Hospitality and Catering		

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