

25 April 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

### Re: Year 11 Exams Period

As we approach the formal GCSE summer exams, we wanted to share some important information regarding this period.

#### Attendance throughout the exam period

Attendance remains compulsory. Students are expected to attend each day throughout the exam period. Each student has been provided with a timetable that clearly states which day each exam is scheduled to take place. In the coming weeks, students will also be provided with a detailed exam timetable that includes specific information such as their unique seat number for each exam. This should be kept safe. The full summer exam timetable can also be found on the school website – link here - [download.asp \(hungerhillschool.com\)](https://www.hungerhillschool.com/download.asp)

When not undertaking an exam, students will be accessing lessons in preparation for their remaining exams along with bespoke intervention sessions tailored to upcoming examinations.

More importantly than ever, it is of the utmost importance that every effort is made for a child to be in school to complete their examinations **Please also note that any student failing to attend an examination not only risks significant underperformance but will also be liable for the costs of the qualification entry fee – this can range between £40 - £90.**

Normal expectations remain in place with regards student attendance, appearance and conduct.

#### Support throughout the exam period

Each day from the 7<sup>th</sup> May, we will be running a series of initiatives throughout the summer exam period to ensure that our Year 11 students are given the very best support to achieve their potential.

Below outlines a series of initiatives to run during the summer GCSE exam period, the focus being:

- Students are with the right teachers at the right time.
- Additional support to help manage student's cognitive load so that they are focused on upcoming assessments.
- Student fatigue is managed by establishing clear routines and patterns on the day of an external assessment.
- We want to prime our students to utilise time wisely, including the minutes/hours before an exam

**Exam Breakfast** - Research shows that students who eat breakfast perform better in exams. To function optimally, the brain needs water, fat, glucose, vitamins and slow-release carbohydrate. Each morning

from 7<sup>th</sup> May, Year 11 students will have priority access to the school canteen where they will be able to purchase an exam breakfast between **7:45 – 8:05**. Students should enter via the main school reception.

**Exam Booster** - Prior to each exam, subject teachers will be delivering bitesize revision booster sessions. These will be tailored sessions based on the expected topics for each exam. Note these will take place **8:10 – 8:40** for morning exams. The session for afternoon exams will take place period 3.

**Exam Briefing** - In the minutes prior to the exam, Curriculum Leaders will deliver some last-minute tips and advice to students related to the exam they are about to sit. This will include handy hints and reminders for answering different types of question and what to expect on each paper.

**Period 6** - Monday – Thursday, Period 6 will feature extended revision sessions in subjects with exams scheduled the following day. These will run **3:30-4:30pm**

**Afternoon refreshments** – Prior to the period 6 sessions, we will be providing, free of charge, afternoon refreshments for those students attending. These will be served in the main hall **3:10-3:25**.

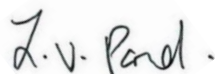
**Coping with Exam Anxieties** – Our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Walker is going to share a short video over the next fortnight for parents/carers and students, discussing strategies to help cope with the pressures and stresses of undertaking exams. In addition, prior to the exams starting, we are offering a workshop for students to attend where Mrs Walker will talk in more detail about coping with stress. If you feel your child would benefit from this workshop, please register their interest via the form link here: <https://forms.office.com/e/pxb0WNtDuX>

### The Prom

There will be a range of Leavers Celebrations taking place during the final weeks of the exam season and into late June. Further details will follow next week. The final event, being the End of Year 11 Prom, which is scheduled to take place on Friday 21 June at Castle Park. Throughout the year students have been working to secure their eligibility by acquiring and retaining Prom Points. Prior to the Easter break Mrs Wagstaff provided students with up-to-date information regarding their current standing. We naturally want the whole year group to be in attendance and to share this memorable event, however, we also think it is fair to all students that this privilege is earned. Therefore, it must be stressed that attendance and conduct throughout the next few weeks and into the exam period will also contribute towards student eligibility.

Thank you for your continued support. The students in Year 11 continue to be a real credit, demonstrating great resilience as they strive to achieve their very best.

Yours sincerely



Mrs L Pond  
Headteacher



Mr J Ryan  
Assistant Headteacher



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