



PARMITER'S SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1681

Headmaster: Mr M Jones BA MEd

25 February 2022

Dear Year 11 Students and their Parents/Carers

Year 11 Spring Term Assessments

Further to the letter immediately prior to half term, we write to provide details of formal assessments that will take place this term and of the two subjects that will have assessments at the start of the Summer term.

Whilst we cannot be absolutely certain, it does seem increasingly likely that examinations will go ahead this summer. However, schools are still encouraged to ensure there are formal assessment points across the academic year that may be used if teacher assessment grades are required. Aside from satisfying the government's contingency plan, these assessments provide another opportunity for students to familiarise themselves with the process of sitting an examination; familiarity with the examination process is a crucial part of building confidence before the actual GCSE examinations in May/June.

The schedule for the assessments this term is given below

		Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5
week 2	Monday 14 March			History		
week 2	Tuesday 15 March					
week 2	Wednesday 16 March					RS
week 2	Thursday 17 March			11C Spanish (2 groups in option block C)	11A Spanish (2 groups in option block A)	
week 2	Friday 18 March	English Literature Paper 2: 'Macbeth'				

		Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5
week 1	Monday 21 March			Computer Science		
week 1	Tuesday 22 March	German				
week 1	Wednesday 23 March			11D Economics (1 group in option block D)	11B Economics (1 group in option block B)	
week 1	Thursday 24 March	Geography				English Language: Paper 2, Section B
week 1	Friday 25 March	Physics				

		Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5
week 2	Monday 28 March	Parmiter's Fringe - students will be off timetable on this day				
week 2	Tuesday 29 March		French			Chemistry
week 2	Wednesday 30 March			D&T Food Prep & Nutrition		
week 2	Thursday 31 March		11D PE 11D Music (students who study these subjects in option block D)	11C PE 11C Music (students who study these subjects in option block C)		
week 2	Friday 1 April					

EASTER HOLIDAYS						
		Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5
week 1	Friday 22 April	Biology				
week 2	Wednesday 27 April	Maths				

- The majority of the assessments will be 45 minutes.
- Students will be provided with revision guidance by their subject teachers.
- The venue(s) for these assessments will be shared with students nearer the time.
- Appropriate provision will be made for those students who have agreed access arrangements.

In planning these formal assessments, we have been mindful that multiple assessments, without sufficient time for teaching, revision and feedback, is of limited benefit if students are to achieve the best possible outcomes and remain positive about their studies. Whilst we appreciate the combination of subjects studied will determine an individual student's timetable, we hope that this schedule allows students to continue to focus in lessons and on homework for all subjects, as well as revise for their assessment.

To confirm, there is no assessment for:

- Drama: students are currently focusing on their NEA (coursework)
- Art: students do not sit a written assessment.

The assessments for Mathematics and Biology will take place after the Easter holidays, both to ensure assessments are spaced out but also to ensure assessments take place at the most appropriate time in the scheme of teaching and revision.

We politely request that no absences (for example, medical appointments) are requested for these times.

Advance Information

You will recall that the table below that links to the advance information for GCSE subjects has already been shared. This advance information is intended to support students' revision.

Examination Board with weblink to advance information	GCSE subjects
AQA	Biology, Chemistry, Combined Science (usually called Double Science by the students), Computer Science, D&T, English Language, Food Preparation & Nutrition, French, German, Music, PE, Physics, Spanish
Edexcel	Maths, RS
OCR	Drama, Economics

Please note that there is no advance information for the following GCSE subjects; Art, English Literature, Geography and History. For Art, there is no written examination and hence advance information is not relevant in this subject. In English Literature, Geography and History more significant changes, with optional topics and content, were announced in October and the departments have already adapted their curriculum and revision plans accordingly.

Information will be shared with students in an appropriate format via departments. However, we thought it useful to share some more general points:

- The detail and format of the advance information is necessarily different between subjects. This may be due to the nature of the subject, or the way it is assessed. Whilst the differences between subjects may not seem 'fair', nationally all students sitting a given qualification have been provided with the same advance information and therefore within that subject no student/school has an unfair advantage.
- In some subjects, the advance information is relevant only for the high demand/high mark questions. The lower demand/ lower mark questions may be taken from any topic on the specification. Where this applies, teachers will explain this to students, but if you are reading the advance information yourself it is crucial you understand which parts of the examination papers the advance information applies to.
- For many subjects there is a synoptic element; that is questions where a student is expected to draw together different areas of knowledge, skills and/or understanding from across the specification. To do this, students will need to have covered all the specification content so their answers reflect the breadth and depth of their learning and therefore access the higher marks and grades.

JCQ, the body that represents the examination boards, have created a webpage ([here](#)) that contains links to this advance information but also other relevant guidance from the JCQ, Ofqual and the Department for Education. You may find some of these documents, especially the FAQ document, useful.

Kind regards



Mrs E Berks
Deputy Headteacher