October 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

Year 11 Pre-Public Examination Week: 7 - 11 November 2016

We will be examining all students in Year 11 in **nearly all** (see below) of their subjects during the second week back after half-term. This will provide students with a critical opportunity to practice examination conditions in our new setting as well as assess their progress during their fourth term of Key Stage 4 courses.

The schedule for examination week will be issued next week. All written examinations will be held in the new Sports Hall. There will be exceptions in Music, which will be in a separate classroom with audio equipment and some Performing Arts/ Drama examinations which will require video equipment. They will still be run as formal examinations. If your child studies **Art, Photography or 3D Design (Textiles or Resistant Materials)** they will not be formally examined in these subjects at this time but will be practically examined at the end of December.

Please note that strict examination conditions will be adhered to and all students are expected to follow these regulations. Mobile phones **must not** be brought into the examinations hall, pencil cases should be transparent and water bottles are only permitted with the labels removed. All students will need pens, pencils, rulers and a scientific calculator – please ensure they have all necessary equipment.

Subject teachers will be preparing students in Year 11 with revision, practice questions and examination technique during lessons leading up to exam week. In addition, further details about the examinations may be uploaded to Show My Homework. Please can you support your child by ensuring that they are punctual to school for each day or session during the examination week, so they do not miss the start of their examination.

Students should spend **additional time** at home revising and preparing for these examinations, especially over the half-term break, as they will be an excellent indicator of the progress that they have made so far on their courses. Please can you check that they manage their independent study and revision time effectively, limiting the use of computer games and television, for example, to maximise learning and the outcomes from these examinations. The grades achieved in these examinations will be the best indicator for any 6th Form applications made in the coming months.

In order to facilitate a smooth running of examination week in our new setting, Year 11 students will not be expected to be in school if they do not have an examination. This will be very few sessions for all students. When there is no examination students will not be expected to be in lessons and may return home to continue with their private and independent study preparations. Some examinations may overrun the usual 1500 hours school finish time. In this sense, these arrangements will mirror very closely the Summer term formal examinations next year. Lunch will be available for those students who wish to eat it each day.

Yours sincerely

Dr Adam Hadley Assistant Head

