



Dear Y11 Parent/Carer

This half term will be very busy for Y11 students as they continue their preparation for their GCSE examinations next summer. We have been pleased with their approach so far and are looking forward to their continued progress in the coming months.

Thursday 4 November, we have the Y11 Form Tutor Evening which is an ideal opportunity for you to come to school, meet your child's Form Tutor and discuss their progress. Please encourage your child to organise an appointment for you. If you have any questions about this please contact their Form Tutor directly or Miss Umpleby (s.umpleby@gra.hlt.academy).

We have included with this letter the timetable for the Y11 Internal Formal Assessments (IFAs). These exams will take place over a two week period starting on 15 November. Each Y11 student will receive an individual exam timetable in school this week. It is important that your child prepares for these exams. Revision and exam practice will be completed during lessons in school, but additional revision at home would, of course, be beneficial. There are revision materials available on Google Classroom including revision lists and practice questions. In addition there are many very useful websites, podcasts and resources available on the internet. All students can also access GCSEPod for revision materials ([GCSEPod: GCSE Learning and Revision](#)). Subject teachers will offer students advice about revision and the best way to approach their exams. There are also opportunities to attend extra sessions after school which we would encourage your child to do if they can.

These exams will be organised exactly like the actual GCSE exams. The students will have to follow exam rules in each exam; they should be familiar with this from their Y10 exams. It is extremely important that students remember that they are not allowed to have a mobile phone with them and that they are not allowed to wear any sort of watch during an exam. There are other rules and regulations summarised in this document: [Information for candidates for written examinations](#). We will brief students at school so that they understand expectations in exams. Should any student fail to follow the rules, they will face a sanction which could range from a cancelled paper to losing an entire GCSE or even all their GCSEs.

We appreciate that being a Y11 parent or carer can be challenging. There are many things you can do to support your child and to help them to do their best in their exams. There is a useful guide for parents which can be downloaded here which we can recommend:

[The GCSE Survival Guide - a free handbook for parents — Tassomai](#). If you have any questions about any aspect of GCSE exams please contact the school and we will be happy to help you.

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Perhaps the most important thing for every Y11 student from now on is to be at school and attending all lessons. This is where the preparation for exams will take place. We are concerned about the attendance of some Y11 students and would ask you to support us by ensuring your child attends school every day, arriving on time. If they do not attend school they will automatically be at a disadvantage compared to others who attend well. This could impact on the courses they can follow at college, the level of apprenticeship they can access and their eventual career and job prospects. If you would like any support in ensuring your child's attendance at school please contact us. We want the best opportunities for all students in Y11 which means we need them all to attend school every day.

We hope to see you at the Form Tutor Evening on Thursday and continuing to work with you in the coming months. If you require any additional information, please contact the relevant teacher at school.

Yours faithfully

Emma Robins
Principal