



Kingsmead School



A PARTNER ACADEMY IN JOHN TAYLOR MAT

Headteacher: Mrs M Mincher, Bsc, NPQH

RESILIENT



INNOVATIVE



MINDFUL



EMPLOYABLE



Letter ref: Y11TE1/25

18th October 2024

YEAR 11 – DECEMBER TRIAL EXAMINATIONS

Dear Parent/Carer,

This letter is to inform you of the arrangements for the upcoming trial examination season, which will commence from Monday, 2nd December and will run until Friday, 6th December.

Exam Arrangements

Students will sit two exams on most days. The first exam session each day will start at 8.30am. Where a second exam is scheduled, this will start from 2pm on Monday (2nd), and 1.30pm from Tuesday (3rd) to Friday (6th).

As soon as they arrive at school each morning, students should go straight to the exam venue specified on their individual timetable.

Once students have finished their morning exam, they will return to their timetabled lessons in the main school building, to continue their revision in period 3 and 4 classes. Students will still be able to access the House of Pi and Glasshouse during the breaks between the exam sessions.

At 1.15pm, during their second break, students will be directed to the venue of their second exam. **The second exam session may run until 3.30pm each day, so period 6s will not take place. At the end of their afternoon exam, students will be dismissed from the venue and told to go straight home to continue with their revision for the next day's exams, independently.** To support them with this, their teachers will set appropriate revision activities for them to complete at home, via Satchel One and the other platforms which we use.

Individual exam timetables will be issued to students in November. If students want to check when their option exams are, they can do this by referring to the schedule below and identifying which letter (A, B or C) is in the subject's class code. The exam for that subject will take place in the corresponding block session.

Monday 2 nd December		Tues 3 rd December		Wednesday 4 th December		Thursday 5 th December		Friday 6 th December	
P1/2	P5/6	P1/2	P5/6	P1/2	P5/6	P1/2	P5/6	P1/2	P5/6
English Lang'	Science Biology	English Lit'	Option B	Maths	Option C	Science Chem	Option D	Science Physics	Option A

Not all subjects have a scheduled trial exam. **Some BTEC subjects will instead have a 'drop-down' session**, where they will receive intensive support from subject specialists. Also, all GCSE Art students will participate in a five-hour practical exam, on Monday, 9th of December. The details of these arrangements will be included in the students' individual timetables.

Expectations of Students

Even though students will be sitting their exams during the week, Kingsmead School's expectations remain the same:

- **Students must wear their full school uniform at all times during the trial exam season**
- **Students should arrive at school for no later than 8:15am – this is so they can arrive at their exam venue in good time and can make an orderly start**
- **Students should go to the toilet before each exam and they should allow time in their journeys and preparation to do this**
- **Students must bring all of the equipment they will need to each exam – you can find more information in the school's Student Guide to Exams, which is available [here](#)**
- **Students should also familiarise themselves with the JCQ Information for Candidates documents – which are available [here](#)**
- After they have been dismissed from school, **students will be expected to leave the school site and revise independently at home**
- **Y11 students will return to lessons from Monday 9th December**

As with the Summer mocks, **students will sit the December trial exams under formal examination conditions, in the school's Sports Hall and our other designated examination venues.** Conducting the examinations in the school's designated venues and under examination conditions is an important part of our strategy for preparing the students for their exams in the summer. We have taken this decision because we want the students to have the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the organisation of the exams in school and the regulations governing their conduct, which they will need to follow in the summer.

How Can you Help? The Importance of Independent Revision

It is important that your child continues to revise independently at home throughout their remaining time in Year 11. As parents, you have an important role to play in encouraging and supporting them as they do this.

Your child can revise in many ways. Firstly, they will continue to have access to all the resources in school e.g. flash cards and past papers. They should already be revising independently using the texts books that they were provided with. To support them with this, their teachers will also set appropriate revision activities for them to complete at home, via Satchell One, Seneca and the Blended Learning Platform.

The Impact of Attendance on Outcomes

In 2024, students with 96% attendance or better achieved an average GCSE grade of a 6! One whole grade higher than the national average and the average for other Kingsmead students with attendance of 95% or below.

Students with expected attendance are also twice as likely to achieve grades 4 or 5 in both English and Maths, than students with below expected attendance.

Summer Exams

As in previous years, JCQ and the exam boards have added a 'contingency day' date to the exam calendar in case of major national or local disruption to exams. Exams may be moved to this date if required. The date that has been designated is Wednesday, 25th June 2025 which will be after the end of the scheduled GCSE exams.

Please be aware that if the contingency date is used, your child may have one or two exams moved to this day and therefore care should be taken before making arrangements, such as booking holidays, on this date.

For questions about the trial exam arrangements, please contact Miss. N. Harding (examqueries@kingsmeadschool.net). If you have any subject specific questions, please contact the class teacher. For general queries, please contact Miss. C. Hinton.

Yours faithfully,



Miss. C. Hinton
Year 11 Progress
Leader



Mr. B. Morris
Assistant Head &
Data Manager



Miss. N. Harding
Examination Officer