



Kingsmead School



A PARTNER ACADEMY IN JOHN TAYLOR MAT

Head of School: Mrs M Mincher, Bsc, NPQH

RESILIENT



INNOVATIVE



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Letter ref: Y13SE1/23

21st April 2023

Year 13 – A Level & Vocational Exams

Dear Parent/Carer,

This letter is to inform you of the arrangements for the upcoming A Level and Level 3 vocational exams, which will commence from Monday, 15th May and will run until Wednesday, 28th June.

As with their October/March mocks, **students will sit all external exams under formal examination conditions, in the school's Sports Hall and our other designated examination venues.**

Students have become very familiar with the examination conditions they are expected to adhere to during their two mock exam seasons this academic year. Students should feel confident in how the procedures will work, enabling them to fully focus on their exams.

Exams & In-School Revision Sessions

Students will sit one exam on most days. Morning (AM) exams will start at 9.00am and afternoon (PM) exams will start from 1.30pm. Students must arrive at their exam venue at least 15-minutes before the start-time of their examination.

The later start times will allow student to attend 30-minute revision sessions with their class, or subject, teachers before morning exams, as well as hour-long revision sessions before afternoon exams.

On the day of an AM exam, students should arrive at school for 8.10, to attend their 30-minute 'Breakfast Revision' session. These are incredibly important, as they are a last opportunity for class teachers to remind students of the tips and tricks they will need to use in their exam.

Research shows that students perform better in exams when they eat and drink something beforehand. **Therefore we are offering all students the opportunity to claim a free breakfast, before every AM exam.** To claim, students simply need to complete [this form](#) (by Friday 28th April) and then collect their breakfast from the House of Pi at 8.10, before attending their 'Breakfast Revision' session. We will also provide students with a free bottle of water in each exam.

We have also arranged hour-long revision sessions before PM exams. These will usually take place during period 4 (12pm – 1pm). Students will then have a 15-minute window in which to buy lunch in school or eat any food they have brought with them. We strongly recommend that students eat something before any PM exam. At 1.15pm, during lunch, students will be directed to the venue of their PM exam.

Students will receive a timetable of their revision sessions in the near future.

From Monday, 15th May the normal period 6s will not run. Instead, students will attend period 6 revision sessions with their class teachers, for exams taking place the next day. Where students do not have an exam on the next day, they should go straight home to continue with their revision for the next day's exams, independently. To support them with this, their teachers will also set appropriate revision activities for them to complete at home, via SatchelOne and the other platforms which we use.

Where two subject exams are scheduled for the following day, the revision session for one of these will take place instead of a timetabled lesson, earlier in the school day. A timetable of the revision sessions taking place over May/June will be shared with students shortly.

Up to Friday 26th May, students will return to their timetabled classes in the main school building, after AM exams, to continue their revision in their period 3 and 4 lessons. **From Monday, 5th June** students will commence their study leave and will only be required to attend school for their timetabled revision sessions and exams.

Throughout the exam period, students will still be able to buy food from the House of Pi and Glasshouse, during breaktimes.

To help students plan their long-term revision, a printed copy of their provisional timetable for the summer exams is enclosed with this letter. This timetable has been determined by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) in conjunction with the exam boards. Individual exam timetables with venue and seat details will be issued to students over the next week. There is also your child's statement of entry form, which you need to check together, sign and return to the Exam Office (opposite the Main Hall).

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, 28th June 2023 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 an exam/s moved to this day and therefore care should be taken before making arrangements, such as booking holidays on this date.

Summary – Expectations of Students

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

- **Up to Friday 26th May, on days with no AM exams, students should continue to attend timetabled lessons as normal, when not in exams**
- **From 6th June students only attend school for exams or revision sessions** – they are on study leave and should revise independently at home at other times
- **Students must wear their normal office dress at all times, in every exam – including all those after Monday 5th June**
- **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 on the school website ([here](#))
- After they have been dismissed from their PM exam or revision session, **students will be expected to leave the school site and revise independently at home**
- **In accordance with the JCQ regulations all electronic devices (mobiles phone, mp3/4 players, all watches or potential technological/web enabled sources of information) must be left in the containers outside of the exam venues. Possession of these unauthorised items in an exam will result in disqualification from that, or all of their qualifications.**

How Can you Help?

The Importance of Independent Revision

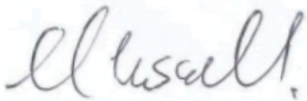
It is important that your child continues to revise independently at home throughout their remaining time in Year 11. As parents, you have an important role to play in encouraging and supporting them as they do this.

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 text books that they were provided with. They can also use the Blended Learning Platform and other online revision resources, such as SENECA and BBC Bitesize.

We wish all of our Year 12s and 13s the very best in their exam preparation. The more time students put into their revision, the more likely they will be to succeed and achieve their potential.

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

Yours faithfully,



Mr. M. Russell
Assistant Headteacher and Director of Sixth Form