

Dear Parent/Carer,

Last term, I postponed a Year 10 information evening until we could be clear about the changes to GCSE examinations being imposed by the Government. Since then, we have spent a considerable amount of time gathering all the information and exploring how these changes will fit into our examination strategy to allow our pupils the best chance of success. We now have clarity from the Department of Education and are in a position to share this information with you

Fortunately the school is well placed to respond to these changes and ensure that our young people will continue to be successful in the examination system. The most significant change for our pupils relates to timing of entry. In the past, pupils have been able to take examinations early, with the opportunity to re-sit examinations if they did not achieve the grade they were capable of on first sitting. This opportunity to re-sit has been removed and therefore examinations must be taken when a pupil has the best chance of achieving the best grade. In the vast majority of cases, this will be in the summer of Year 11 when a pupil has had the time to mature and receive maximum teaching input. There are some exceptions.

Because of the changes imposed by the Department for Education we now know that Year 10 pupils will have very little change to their current curriculum and therefore it is not necessary to reschedule the information evening. The information you need to know is straight forward:

- Most examinations will be taken at the end of Year 11
- Many pupils will still sit some Science examinations this year and some Science examinations in Year 11.
- Some pupils studying English Literature may be sitting this examination at the end of Y10 if they are ready.
- A very small number of Language and Humanities pupils will be sitting their examination at the end of Y10. This small cohort are entering early after discussion with parents.

Attached to this letter is your child's exam and controlled assessment information. In addition, on the 13th February, you will receive a full report, including comments from teachers about your child's current progress. Please pay close attention to their estimated grades and compare it closely to their targets. We will be doing the same here in school and will be starting a programme of intervention to address any underachievement.

If you have any concerns or are have outstanding queries then please do not hesitate to contact your child's form teacher or Head of House.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs R Wall
Deputy Headteacher