

1 October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 11 have just started what will be one of their most important years of their education. The student's approach, attitude to learning along with an effective daily revision programme and attending school every day will determine their success in the exams in the summer 2024. The following explains what we have in place to support students this year.

Morning mastery

Each morning at 8:18am students receive an expert session / lecture on the following subjects: English, science, Spanish, RE, history / geography, a different subject each morning. The focus of these sessions is revision of gaps and exam technique based on how students performed in the year 10 Cycle 3 assessments and preparation for the mock exams in November. Punctuality to the academy, arriving by 8:15am and being in the theatre by 8:18am ensures that students are not missing important messages related to these subjects.

Study prep

Study prep takes place in the afternoon and is an opportunity for students to apply what they are learning in the morning mastery sessions to exam style questions and do some independent revision. This is modelling what they should be doing at home on an evening and at weekends and to gain some support from form tutors.

Personal Development Studies (PDS)

PDS for year 11 takes place on a Tuesday. Students have a programme of careers delivered by Mr Lafferty and Mr Lorryman as well as outside speakers to support with Careers advice and guidance. Last week a member of staff from D6A spoke to the students about the provision and application process at the sixth form, this week a representative from Bradford New College will be speaking to the students.

Targeted Revision workshops

Targeted sessions are usually by invite only but please encourage your child to speak to their teacher or Head of Department if they would like to attend. If your child receives a letter asking them to attend a session after school, then please support the attendance as the session will be based on gaps in the student has.

There is a link from our website to a revision resource that caters for; English, Maths, Science, Geography, History and Spanish, <https://www.dixonsrevision.com/>. All students also have a 100% book for each subject that details everything they need to revise for their exams, along with examples of annotated exam papers.

November Mock Exams

See the timetable attached for the mock exams starting week beginning 4 November. This is an opportunity for students to rehearse, to see how effective their planning, revision and exam techniques are. It is also an opportunity for them to find out where their areas for improvement are so they can really focus their preparation for the next stage. In maths, science and Spanish students will also try out the tier of paper they might be entered for, higher or foundation. It is important that the teachers get this right so that students are not disadvantaged by being entered for the wrong tier. Students wanting to be entered for higher must show that they are at least a 4+ to be confidently entered for that tier. Entries for the examinations and tiers are completed in February. It is really important students don't see these exams as 'just mocks'. Preparation for these exams is part of the preparation for the summer. The grades achieved from these exams will also be used when the form tutors' complete references for the students for post 16 applications.

Students need to sit the exams as scheduled on the timetable as they would in the summer as exams cannot be rearranged. They need to be fully equipped for both the mock and the real exams with the correct equipment. They need a clear pencil case or clear plastic wallet; two black pens, two pencils, eraser, pencil sharpener, ruler, calculator with fresh batteries for the maths, science, geography and DT exams along with any other specialist equipment.



Access arrangements for exams, all students were assessed in year 10 for any access arrangements needed to support them with exams such as extra time, coloured paper etc. It is important that if they have an access arrangement, they show evidence of needing it if they want to keep the provision. If it is not used, then it will be deemed as not needed and will therefore be taken away.

Mock results session

Tuesday 3 December, students will receive their results as they would their real exam results in August 2025. Students will then reflect and review how they have done and put an action plan together for what they need to improve in the lead up to the Easter mock exams and then in the real examinations.

Parent Consultation evening – Monday 9 December

This is an important evening to find out from all subject teachers your child's strengths and areas for improvement along with discussing how those improvements can be made. If you have any concerns that won't wait until that evening, then please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's form tutor.

BTEC IT

If your child studies BTEC IT (Digital Information Technology), they will have an exam on 14 January for Component 3. Please support your child with a programme of revision so they can be successful in these exams.

February Mock Exams – Term 4, end of February / March

A timetable for the February / March mock exams will be sent out in January. This will be the final opportunity for students to rehearse prior to the exams starting in May.

Public Examinations – Friday 9 May 2025

The exam season starts on Friday 9 May 2025; however, some exams are scheduled to take place before this date. The 10-hour Art exam will take place over several lessons during April and will be communicated to students in January. The Spanish speaking assessments usually take place in the last week of April / first week of May and individual times will be communicated to students in Term 4.

Careers Advice and Guidance – Post 16

As well as all the above we will be supporting students through their transition to post 16. We hope most students will be applying to the Dixons Sixth form. The next open evening for D6A is 17 October 5:00-7:30pm, please see the website for more details, <https://www.dixons6a.com/>. It is important that students are doing their research and considering their options after year 11. Karen Hodgson (Careers Advisor) or Mr Lorryman (Head of Careers) are available for support. All students will have a 1 to 1 appointment with the Careers Advisor. Students can also refer themselves for an appointment for further support. Karen is in on a Thursday and based in the library. Students also have access to Unifrog which is great for looking at post 16 options and career choices.

Private Tutors

We are sometimes asked about private tutors or parents organise 1 to 1 tuition during year 11. In some cases, the experience is that a tutor is not needed and may not have the impact required. Sometimes students with a tutor feel because they have a tutor no other independent revision is needed / don't work as hard in lessons. Attending school every day and working hard with a can-do attitude showing determination and having a regular programme of independent revision along with attending any sessions in school is what works in most instances. Tutors are useful where 1 to 1 helps to work on specific gaps. Students must still follow an independent revision programme.

We will keep you up to date with revision workshops and interventions that are organised throughout the year. If you have any queries about any of the above or would like to discuss your child's progress and strategies for this year then please contact your child's form tutor or Mr Lafferty, Head of Year 11.

Yours sincerely



Mrs J Orton
Senior Vice Principal
jorton@dixonsca.com



Year 11 Mock Exam Timetable – November 2024

	Wed 06 Nov	Thursday 07 November	Friday 08 November
8:30 am	Drama Component 1 Controlled Assessment Group 1	Drama Component 1 Controlled Assessment Group 2	DT 2 hours
11:00am			Sport Studies 1 hour 15 mins
1:20pm			Computer Science Paper 1 1 hour 30 minutes
			Spanish Writing paper F – 1 hour H – 1 hour 15 minutes
			Music – A27 1 hour 45 minutes Health & Social Care 1 hour 15 mins
			Computer Science Paper 2 1 hour 30 minutes Drama 1 hour 30 minutes

Monday 11 November	Tuesday 12 November	Wednesday 13 November
English Literature 1 hour 45 minutes	Science Paper 1 Biology Combined - 1 hour 15 minutes Triple - 1 hour 45 minutes	Spanish Reading paper Foundation (F) 45 minutes Higher (H) 1 hour Spanish Listening paper F 35 minutes H 45 minutes
Maths Paper 1 Non-Calculator 1 hour 30 minutes	Geography Paper 1 1 hour 30 minutes History 1 hour 45 minutes	Science Paper 1 Chemistry Combined - 1 hour 15 minutes Triple - 1 hour 45 minutes

	Monday 18 November	Tuesday 19 November	Wednesday 20 November
8:30am	Maths Paper 2 Calculator 1 hour 30 minutes	Science Paper 1 Physics Combined - 1 hour 15 minutes Triple - 1 hour 45 minutes	Maths Paper 3 Calculator 1 hour 30 minutes
11:00am			
1:20pm	English Language 1 hour 45 minutes	Geography Paper 2 1 hour 30 minutes	RE 1 hour 45 minutes

Exam Equipment *(in clear pencil case / plastic wallet)*

- 2 Black pens.
- 2 Pencils sharpened.
- Ruler and eraser.
- Protractor and compass.
- Calculator (Maths, DT, Geography and Science).
- You can take a drink of water in a clear bottle (no writing, no labels).
- Any other subject specific equipment.

Spanish Speaking Exams – Week Beginning 25 November.

Your Spanish teacher will let you know about timings.

Art Exam

- Option Q Monday 4 November
- Option P Tuesday 5 November