

16th December 2011

Dear Parent/Carer

Please find enclosed a further copy of the key dates for Year 10 (2011-2012) and an attendance printout for the year to date.

As you are aware, some of the subjects your daughter is studying for GCSE have modular examinations in the Spring Term. These examinations will play an important role in determining your daughter's overall GCSE grade. End of Key Stage 4 target grades have been set for your daughter in all subjects and she should be aiming to achieve these targets. I ask for your support in ensuring that some time is spent over the Christmas holidays, and in the weeks leading up to the examinations, revising for these exams.

Your daughter's subject teachers will have given her information about appropriate revision resources. The school's VLE is also an excellent source of information. I would particularly like to draw your attention to a new audio presentation called "Revision Tactics," which can be accessed by following the link on the VLE home page. It is crucial that your daughter is well prepared and returns to school in the New Year aware of any gaps in her knowledge and understanding so that she can work with her subject teachers to resolve them. It is also very important that she completes any outstanding coursework or controlled assessments to the very best of her ability as they have a big impact on final GCSE grades.

There is also a strong correlation between good attendance and academic success. The school threshold for satisfactory attendance is 96% and many pupils manage to achieve in excess of this, which is commendable. If your daughter's current attendance falls below 96% this is a cause for concern and must improve if she is to fulfil her potential. You may also find that attendance of less than 96% has impacted on the overall Reward Level that your daughter has managed to achieve this term. The Reward Certificates were presented in Celebration Assemblies on the last morning of term.

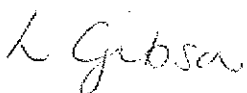
Every lesson really does count! The single most important factor for your daughter to achieve success at the end of Key Stage 4 is that she attends regularly and punctually. Again, I ask for your support throughout the remainder of Year 10 in ensuring that your daughter attends school every day. She will miss out and quickly fall behind if she is absent!

You will receive your daughter's interim report and further attendance information at the beginning of March. If you have any queries or concerns in the meantime, please contact either your daughter's subject teachers, Tutor, Pastoral Support Manager or Head of Learning.

Thank you for your continued support.

I wish you and your family a very happy Christmas and all good things for 2012.

Yours sincerely



Mrs L. Gibson
Deputy Headteacher

Key Dates for Year 10

2011-2012

10 October	English Controlled Assessment
9 November	Maths Module Exam
1 December	English Controlled Assessment
12 January 2012	Biology exam
16 January (INSET day)	LAMDA exams
17 January	History exam
18 January	Chemistry exam
20 January	Physics Exams
2 February	Maths Challenge
20 February	English Controlled Assessment
2 March	Performing Arts Exam
6 March (week beginning)	Drama Practical Exam this week French orals this week
19 March (week beginning)	Spanish orals this week
8 May (week beginning)	French writing Controlled Assessment
15 May	RS Philosophy exam
22 May	Business Study exam
23 May	RS Short Course exam
24 May	English Literature exam
11 June	Maths exam RS Philosophy exam
12 June	History Exam Biology exam (resits)
14 June	Geography exam
15 June	History exam Chemistry exam
19 June	Sociology exam
20 June	Physics exam (resits)
22 June	LAMDA exam
25 June (week beginning)	History Controlled Assessment Spanish Writing Controlled Assessment
27 June	Sociology exam
2 July (week beginning)	History Controlled Assessment
9 July (week beginning)	History Controlled Assessment

Throughout the academic year, Controlled Assessments for other subjects will take place in class under controlled conditions. The level of control (Low, Medium or High) varies from subject to subject, as well as the number of hours allocated for the assessment. Students are made aware of their controlled assessment dates and it is very important that all lessons are attended otherwise it is very difficult to make up any lost time.