



The Priory School

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Dear Parents/ Carers,

I am writing to you regarding the Year 9 examination period that takes place from Monday 6th to Thursday 10th December 2021.

Your child has already received their timetable and will have been spending time preparing for the exams in lessons, as well as being given revision tasks to complete. I am addressing them in an assembly on 24th November to go through the detail of how the exams will operate, and tutors will reinforce this with students. A copy of the main timetable is included with this letter and those students who have access arrangements will receive an adapted version of this.

We are very conscious that, due to restrictions in place as a result of the pandemic, these will be the first formal examinations that students in Year 9 will have sat at The Priory School. As such, we have taken the decision to 'slim down' the length and content of the exams and are focusing on skills and content that students will have recently been covering in lessons. However, it is important that students have the opportunity to sit formal exams so that we are able to formally assess them and also to prepare them for the GCSE examinations in Year 11.

Please be assured that, whilst we expect students to use lesson time and revision to prepare well, we do not want them to feel undue pressure. The Year 9 examinations are a good benchmark to reflect how students are doing but we all know that people can have an 'off day' and that some will perform better than others in such conditions. The results of the exams will be shared with students and parents/carers, but teachers will also have their working knowledge of how students have progressed on a day to day basis. As such, we would not want students to feel that a subject they did not do so well in is off limits as an option subject, if they feel that they generally perform well in that subject.

Your support in encouraging your child to balance preparing for the exams with rest and other activities will be much appreciated and we thank you for your continued support. If they, or you, have any concerns, there are plenty of people who they can talk to in school such as their tutor, Head of House, Student Support or myself.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs C Knight
Deputy Headteacher