



SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL[®]

YEAR 11 GCSEs 2019



March 2019

www.springfield.uk.net

AN INTRODUCTION FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers

It probably does not feel that long since you dropped your son or daughter off for the first day of secondary school and now, all of a sudden, the GCSE exam season is on the horizon!



Managing exams and the inevitable stress that comes with them is normal and arguably a healthy challenge that all pupils will face at some point. We hope that the information contained and signposted in this booklet will answer some of the questions that pupils and parents have. You will see that in addition to the work that takes place in lessons, there is a significant amount of extra support that the teaching staff offer, much of which is delivered in what should be teachers' free time. However, at the end of the day it is the pupils themselves who need to put the work in and organise themselves such that they achieve the best results of which they are capable.

Over the coming weeks we will be supporting pupils by making them feel in control academically. Staff will be encouraging them to reflect on how they can revise effectively, what they can expect on the day of the exam, which areas of the specification(s) to focus on and, importantly, how to access help and support with their work should they need it. Please encourage your son or daughter to make the most of every lesson and to ask their teachers for support as and when they need it - rather than waiting until the day before the exam!

I have seen how hard the pupils have been working of late and wish each and every Year 11 pupil the best of luck for their GCSEs and other qualifications.

Kind regards

Sara Spivey
CEO, Headteacher



EASTER REVISION SESSIONS

Pupils have the opportunity to revise with teachers during the Easter break...

With the 2019 GCSE examination series fast approaching, Year 11 pupils have been making the most of lesson 0 and lesson 6 for months. They also came in their numbers for the February half term workshops, offered by their teachers. As the Easter holidays approach, many pupils and parents have been asking about the workshops on offer during the Easter fortnight.

Unlike previous years, we are opening the school for the full two weeks and Year 11 will find that there are sessions on offer on most days. Historically the Easter workshops are very well attended – Year 11 are welcome to attend as many as they wish although it is important that they also have a balance between work and relaxation.

The programme will be published to pupils via their tutors so that they can start to organise their 'holiday' time. I ask that pupils, as in the February workshops, sign in at reception before each workshop. I know from previous years that they value these sessions and the hard work that their teachers put in for their benefit. Pupils are not required to wear school uniform when attending the workshops and may bring snacks and drinks to help them work effectively. We hope that you will ensure your child takes advantage of this extra, free opportunity to prepare for their examinations this year.

Please note that as these workshops are being offered outside of our normal term-time timetable, with only a small number of students and staff on site, there will not be any designated trained first aiders in school. Should an incident arise, staff will contact home initially and 999 in an emergency.

Please see page 3 for a copy of the scheduled revision sessions. We recommend you check the website regularly for any changes.

Mr Wharton, Deputy Headteacher

continued...

EASTER REVISION SESSIONS

	Morning Session	Afternoon Session
Monday 8th April	Drama (Drama Studios) Mrs Brown 10.00 – 12.30 Art (B14) Mrs Robertson 10.00 – 12.30 French (C22) Ms Creighton 10.00 - 12.30	Drama (Drama Studios) Mrs Brown 12.30 – 3.00 Art (B14) Mrs Robertson 12.30 – 3.00 French (C22) Ms Creighton 12.30 - 3.00
Tuesday 9th April	Child Development (C25) Mrs Argyle 10.00 - 12.30 Drama (Drama Studios) Mrs Brown 10.00 – 12.30 Art (B14) Mrs Robertson 10.00 – 12.30 French (F) Ms Creighton (C22) 10.00—12.30	Drama (Drama Studios) Mrs Brown 12.30 – 3.00 Art (B14) Mrs Robertson 12.30 - 3.00
Wednesday 10th April	Maths Mrs Moret (C01), Mr Dennet (C02), Ms Hawkins (C07), Ms Beasley (C08) 10.00 - 12.30	Maths Mrs Moret (C01), Mr Dennet (C02), Ms Hawkins (C07), Ms Beasley (C08) 1.00 - 3.00
Thursday 11th April	Geography (B24) Miss Kelly 10.00 - 12.30 English (11Y3) Mr Wharton 10.00 - 12.30	Geography (B24) Miss Kelly 12.30 - 3.00 English (11X3) Mr Wharton 12.30 - 3.00
Friday 12th April	Design and Technology Mrs Ware/Mr Wilburn/Mrs Allen (Product Design) 9.00 - 12.00	History Miss Payne, (B01) Mr Walters(B11) 1.00 - 3.00

Monday 15th April	Photography (B12) Mrs Millington 10.00 – 12.30	Photography (B12) Mrs Millington 12.30 – 3.00
Tuesday 16th April	English (C12/C17/C19) Mrs Bolton/Miss Bicheno/Miss Thornhill 10.00 – 12.30	English (C12/C17/C19) Mrs Bolton/Miss Bicheno/Miss Thornhill 12.30 – 3.00
Wednesday 17th April	Geography (B24/B25) Mrs Whitelock and Mrs Parker 10.00 - 12.00	
Thursday 18th April	Media Studies-Mrs Bartlett (C27) 10.00 - 12 noon Computer Science (C24) Mr Teeling 10.00 - 12.00	Computer Science (C24) Mr Teeling 12.30 - 3.00

EXAMINATION AND REVISION TIMETABLE

Parents and pupils alike will find the examination schedule on the school's website. (<https://bit.ly/2U3OkR5>) They will also notice that there are revision slots worked into the timetable. We introduced this change in timetables several years ago so that pupils had a two hour input directly before each examination. Pupils have told us how much they value these two hour slots – sometimes the very subject matter revised in the immediate revision session comes up in the subsequent exam - which pleases everyone..!

Pupils are to go to their 'home' teacher in the classroom they are used to for these revision sessions – irrespective of what their timetables since September have been.

Pupils have also been asking when Study Leave starts. The short answer is - there's no such thing as Study Leave...!

However, you will notice on the revision schedule that around the May half term holiday pupils are allowed to revise at home. Our basic rule of thumb is that in the 5 weeks **before** the May half term holiday pupils are in lessons, in revision sessions or in an exam. The only exception, you will see, is that after the English Literature exam on the 23rd May, Year 11 pupils are allowed to go home for an early start to the May half term holiday. Design Technology pupils are still expected to be in for their revision session on Friday 24th May.

After the May half term holiday there are occasions when pupils will be able to revise at home. I will explain all this to Year 11 in an assembly on 26th April but, again, the rule of thumb is that after the May half term holiday pupils are **either** in a revision session, **or** in an exam **or** at home.

Mr Wharton, Deputy Headteacher

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WHO BETTER TO TEACH YEAR 11?

Current Year 11 have been benefiting from previous Springfield pupils' knowledge and experience. Portsmouth College contacted us early in the autumn term to ask if we were interested in previous pupils coming in after school to work with targeted Year 11 pupils. It seemed too good an opportunity to miss so a small number of last year's success stories have been working on Maths and English with current Year 11. At first it was supposed to be a 6 week stint from October but both Year 11 and ex-pupils have shown such commitment that the project is still running.

I would like to express my great thanks to Jess Todd, Ella Rawlinson and Liv Beynon and would welcome current Year 11 returning the favour once they are at College for current Year 10 once the clock rolls around to September 2019...

Mr Wharton, Deputy Headteacher



CURRENT EXAMINATION BOARDS

OCR	Computing and Child Development
AQA	Modern Foreign Languages, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, P.E., English Language and English Literature, Media, Geography, Art, Photography, History, Food Preparation and Nutrition
EdExcel	Maths and Drama
Eduqas	Design and Technology (Product Design/Textiles)

COPING WITH EXAMS

The months leading up to the GCSE exams can feel intense and – at times – overwhelming.

Try out some of the tips below to help you feel confident and in control:

1. Avoid leaving revision until the last minute. Our brains can only handle a certain amount of new information in one go. Have a clear revision plan and revise daily for short bursts (no more than 30 minutes at a time) with 5 minutes break between sessions.
2. Plan breaks and 'reward' time. Having things to look forward to can really help you to keep going during times of stress.
3. Do something creative every day, even if it is just for a short time. Draw, dance, sing, act, play music – anything that allows you to shift the focus from exam pressure and makes you feel positive. Being creative is proven to reduce feelings of stress and improve mood.
4. Spend time with people who are good for you. Having a study partner can really help (provided you are not talking about plans for the weekend)! Alternatively, make sure you plan to see your favourite people when you are on a break from GCSE revision.
5. Have a period of time each day when you are completely 'off-line'. Social media can be just as pressured as GCSEs! Turn your phone/computer off for an hour a day to enable you to 'switch off'.
6. Eat and drink well. A good diet makes you feel better, look better and ensures you are better able to cope under stress.
7. Exercise. It doesn't matter what it is, exercise is proven to reduce feelings of stress and improve mood.
8. Talk to someone if you are really struggling. There are always people who can listen and who will try to help. You have friends, family and teachers who are around if you need them.
9. Try out websites like 'Headspace' for further tips on how to achieve a calm mind. Alternatively, 'Young Mind' is a brilliant website with lots of advice and support for people struggling with anxiety or low mood.
10. Finally, know that this difficult time will soon be over! There are just a few months before GCSEs will be finished and then you will have 10 weeks of holiday! Make the most of all the help that is on offer to you at the moment and work hard to ensure you are proud of your achievements.

Please follow the links below which relate to exam stress:

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/articles/zckydxs>

<https://www.tes.com/news/exam-stress-parents-biggest-worry-2019>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What can we take into the exam hall?

Pupils can take a clear water bottle without a label (water or squash only – no fizzy drinks), a clear plastic bag with unwrapped sweets, a clear pencil case and a watch that must be left on the desk during the exam. Pupils must remember to bring their own equipment to every exam this includes calculators without lids, black biros (more than one), pencil, pencil sharpener, rubber, highlighters, protractor, compass, ruler.

Pupils are **NOT** permitted to take any mobile device including smart watches, mobile telephones or mp3 players, coats, bags.

Pupils are expected to be in full school uniform (no hoodies will be allowed). If the hall is hot jumpers will be allowed to be taken off.

What if I lose my timetable?

We are able to reprint timetables but the exams office is particularly busy at this time of year so we would appreciate if pupils could make a copy and keep it safe.

What if I am late for any exam due to exceptional circumstances?

The exam boards will permit admission to the exam up until half an hour from the start. Any later than that the pupil will be allowed to sit the exam after completing a late form which will be submitted with the pupil's exam paper and the awarding body will decide whether the paper is marked.

What if I am ill?

If a pupil is ill on the day of an exam and they sit the exam unwell we apply for special consideration to let the board know they were unwell and the exam board will mark it accordingly. If a pupil is so ill that they cannot attend the exam a doctor's note will be required to send off to the exam board for special consideration. Pupils are not allowed to re-sit a missed exam in the current season.

What time do we need to be at our exams?

- Morning exams start promptly at 9.05am
- Afternoon exams start promptly at 1.20pm
- Pupils need to be lined up on the tennis courts at least **15 MINUTES BEFORE THE START OF EVERY EXAM**

Please note that if pupils do not attend any examination without legitimate reason a fee will be incurred for the cost of the exam entry.

Summer heat

Please be assured that we make every effort to make the halls comfortable and water is provided during exams.

Results Day

Exam results will be available from 10.00am until 12 noon on Thursday 22nd August 2019 in the Main Hall. If pupils are on holiday at this time please see Mrs Millar as soon as possible so she can arrange for alternative provision.

Appeals

Once the GCSE results are known in August, if you wish to query a final grade, please contact Mrs Millar, the Examinations Officer, in the first instance. Where a review of the marking process is requested, the charge for the re-mark will be passed on to parents/carers. Please note that, in recent years, very few GCSE results have been altered after a re-mark.

Please follow the link below to JCQ which gives some further advice for pupils during exams - <https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents>

Please follow the link to our examinations page - <https://springfield.uk.net/index.php/learning/examinations>