



23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 10 students

## **Year 10 Summer Assessment Window 10<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024**

The next assessment window for Year 10 runs for two weeks, from 10<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> June. Assessments will be in the sports hall during the second week for English, maths and science. All other assessments will be in lessons. Information on what is in these assessments is being shared by Curriculum Leaders and teachers in lessons and on GO 4 Schools.

Assessment and reporting dates are shared on our website:

<https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/parents/assessment-and-reporting/>

Enclosed is a timetable for the assessments that will be in the sports hall. Some students with examination concessions will sit these assessments separately, and the SEN team will contact those students to explain the arrangements. I have also included some advice from the English and science teams on preparing for assessments. Maths have shared detailed topics and revision tips in recent lessons and will be emailing these out to parents and students separately.

The assessments in the sports hall will be run following the rules that apply for external exams wherever possible, to help prepare students for mocks and external examinations in Year 11. I would be grateful if you could ensure that your child is aware of them:

- For assessments in the sports hall, students will line up in the hall before each assessment. They should go straight there at the start of the lesson, not to their usual lesson.
- Students should follow instructions from staff on where to line up, ready to go into the sports hall and find their designated seat.
- No mobile phones, iPods, MP3s, MP4s or watches are to be taken into any examination.
- No food, sweets or chewing gum allowed in any examination. Students may bring a drink (water only) in a clear plastic bottle with a screw top and label removed.
- Students must bring appropriate equipment with them to all examinations. This includes pens, pencils, eraser, ruler and calculator (when allowed). The equipment should be in a clear pencil case or a clear plastic bag.
- Students are not permitted to communicate with each other whilst in the sports hall during examination times.
- If students are not in a timetabled exam, they will be in lessons as normal.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Mr A Hamer

**Teacher of History – Head of Year 10**

### **Preparing for English Language Assessments:**

- Read – the focus is on reading fiction and non-fiction texts so reading for pleasure is actually a good way to broaden your vocabulary, revise the structure of novels/letters/newspaper articles etc. and see a range of punctuation and paragraphing structures being used.
- Practise writing - describe a place you have been, your room, the qualities you look for in friend; you could google search for interesting pictures and use those as a base for description.
- Use the blurbs of books and create your own narrative; a good way would be to write an opening for the novel ... you could then compare it to the actual opening to see if you have used any similar techniques.
- Use Mr Bruff – he has created videos that explore the GCSE paper - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hMhQIX9DCcQ&list=PLqGFsWf-P-cAlttnXkEvJXCxqT-ZzFqAN> This link takes you to paper 1, question 1 and then the others are available in the box down the right hand side.
- Use the exam board website: AQA English Language and have a look at past papers, mark schemes and examiners' reports. Try doing the questions and then having a look at the mark scheme and the answers they suggest you could have given.

### **Preparing for English Literature Assessments:**

- Read your key texts – a lot! Remember it is closed book so everything you can remember is vital. You can watch any versions that there may be of the texts but remember that they often change things or miss things out so test yourself and try to spot the differences.
- Make note cards, mind maps, lists, character profiles, post it notes etc. to remember key themes, quotes/references, character traits, structures, writer's techniques...
- Create revision mats with key characters, themes, quotes, context etc.
- Condense your class notes on texts and poems – as you will only have poem titles to spur your memory try creating mind maps around each title.
- Record yourself talking through your notes and listen to it back.
- Use audio books and YouTube videos such as Mr Bruff; again, he has some new videos that deal with English literature papers <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4YJlfbm-3vs&t=0s> (some of his older videos that deal with set texts would still be valuable.)
- Use revision notes/guides, practice questions and your exercise books from your class, and resources on Teams.
- Practise questions and use the marking grids and feedback from your teachers to help you review your responses – again, these can be found on the AQA website under GCSE English Literature.
- You can also follow Mrs Brown's twitter account: <https://twitter.com/MrsBee98885769> for revision ideas, prompts, tasks etc.

### **Preparing for Science Assessments:**

- Do not just read your notes or a revision guide! You must do something active; use the revision guides, to read the notes and then complete the revision exercises at the end of each chapter.
- Do not just work on the bits you are already confident with. Focus on your weaker areas using a revision guide and other resources, such as <https://www.educake.co.uk>, <https://www.senecalearning.com/> and BBC Bitesize.
- Apply your knowledge by completing past paper questions, using resources from the AQA website, school Teams pages and <https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/>
- Work on your maths skills – 20% of the total marks will come from testing your maths skills.
- Learn the required practicals – 15% of the total marks will be from questions about these so learn the definitions of key scientific terms used, create a brief outline of the methods, key equipment used and how the practical could be improved. The Freescience lessons website and Malmesbury science youtube channel have very good videos to explain all the practicals <https://www.freesciencelessons.co.uk/> <https://www.youtube.com/c/malmesburyeducation>