



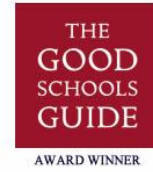
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June 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

As you will be aware, most year 12 students are currently undertaking three A level courses (or a combination of one to two A levels combined with an equivalent vocational qualification). As A level exams are externally assessed at the end of the two years of study, it is necessary to have an internal assessment at the end of year 12 through progression exams that will take place for one week from Monday 1st July. In order to help students prepare for this, there will be one week of study leave, commencing Monday 24th June.

Of course we anticipate the vast majority of students to achieve their target or perhaps exceed this. However, if students gain an overall ungraded mark on their papers they will be asked to sit these again before the summer break. If there is no improvement on the second sitting the student will have the chance to sit the paper under exam conditions on Monday 2nd September. If there is still no improvement, the department will recommend that they cannot progress on to the second year of the course. If the student gains an E grade on the first sitting it will be left to the discretion of the subject teachers/department involved as to whether they are happy for the student to go forward on to year 13 with that subject. This is in line with the arrangement in previous years, when students were externally assessed in their AS qualification as a mid-way point of the overall qualification.

A further development that we need to inform you of is that the government no longer funds students repeating a subject for a second year. Therefore if a student does not pass a specific subject at the end of year 12 or 13, they will not be able to repeat it the following year (as a year 13 or year 14 student) unless for a specific medical or educational reason. They can opt for a different subject but it has been made clear to us that we will no longer be able to claim funding for students repeating a subject.

If you have any questions about any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Adrian de Souza
Deputy Headteacher

Dale Whitehead
Head of Sixth Form

Helen Valentine
Deputy Head of Sixth Form

