



The Kings of Wessex Academy

Getting the best out of everyone

March 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian

Year 10 Summer Exams 2017

I am writing to inform you of some important internal exams that are due to take place for Year 10 students at The Kings of Wessex Academy from 8th-12th May 2017 inclusive.

These exams, as well as providing excellent preparation for public GCSE examinations next year, can also give students and their teachers some really valuable information about their current level of performance, their strengths and those areas that still need to develop in order for their full potential to be met in 2018. I want to ensure that students have clear information and support to help them best prepare for these important assessments.

Please find overleaf a timetable which indicates when exams in specific subjects are taking place. Your son/daughter will shortly be issued with an Individual Candidate Exam Timetable, which indicates exactly which papers they are sitting with details given regarding starting times, venues and seat numbers.

I would be grateful if you could emphasise the importance of thorough preparation for these imminent exams. Whilst I am certain that students will do even more revision and exam practice before next summer's public exams, it is essential that students approach the Year 10 exams with the same level of determination. If students adopt the attitude that these exams are extremely useful in helping to know how to achieve their best, then they will really benefit from the experience. Moreover, these exams represent an invaluable opportunity for Year 10 students to practise the application of their knowledge under exam conditions. If insufficient effort is put into preparation and students then claim that exam results are disappointing because they didn't try, then nothing will have been gained – in fact, a fantastic opportunity to learn, improve and achieve will have been lost.

To assist with the revision process, I have asked the relevant Subject Leaders to indicate in the table below, which topics Year 10 students will need to focus on in preparing for these examinations.

Business Studies	Students will be sitting a Unit 1 paper which covers all areas of setting up a business. The focus will be on startup businesses and will have a combination of short knowledge questions with longer analytical questions that require students to apply their knowledge directly to the case study they are given. There will be 3 case studies in total and the paper lasts 1 hour. Students will need to bring calculators to the exam. Further guidance will be given to students in terms of topics to revise nearer the time.
Computer Science	To prepare effectively, students should revise the key topics of study from both year 9 and year 10. This includes: Data Representation & Binary, Hardware, Software, Problem Solving and Programming skills such as Pseudo Code, Testing and Trace Tables. For more information students should refer to the revision resources section of Firefly. There they will find an overview of what should be revised, revision materials and more information.
Food Preparation & Nutrition	Students will sit a one hour exam based on healthy eating and wise food choice, diet, nutrition, recipe adaption and ethical use of food ingredients. Using revision documents available on Firefly (Y10 revision section) and reading through class/homework will help prepare students for the exam.
DT Product Design	Students will sit a one hour exam based on a research and design task linked to The 2014 Commonwealth Games. The paper will contain a mixture of design and short/long answer questions relating to the design process, health and safety legislation, design movements and retro design. Students will be taught how to research and prepare for the examination in lessons and will be able to access support material to help revise via the www.technologystudent.com website.
English Language	Students will be sitting a sample AQA English Language GCSE 'Paper 1 Explorations in creative reading and writing' exam (this paper will be worth 50% of their total English Language mark when sat in 2018). The paper is 1 hour and 45 minutes long and consists of two sections: Section A – students will read one extract from a work of fiction and answer questions on this extract. As this is a test of their reading, students are required to show understanding of the content, language and structure of the text. Section B – assesses students' writing. There will be a choice of two short tasks, requiring very tightly crafted and accurate writing for a narrative or descriptive purpose. Students will answer one of two tasks; their piece should be written for the specific purpose in the task and use language appropriate to the given audience. In preparation, candidates will need to revise how to read fiction texts and comment on the language and structure of these texts. Students should use their English books and the resources on Firefly to aid revision.

An Outstanding Church of England Academy

Station Road, Cheddar, Somerset BS27 3AQ Telephone: 01934 742608 Fax: 01934 742757
Email: office@kowessex.co.uk www.kowessex.co.uk

Wessex Learning Trust. Registered in England. Company Number 734 8580.

English Literature	<p>Students will be sitting a sample AQA English Literature GCSE 'Paper 2 Modern texts and poetry' exam (this paper will be worth 60% of their total English Literature mark when sat in 2018). The paper is 2 hours and 15 minutes long and consists of three sections:</p> <p>Section A – students will answer one of a choice of two essay questions on Animal Farm by George Orwell. In preparation, candidates will need to revise key themes, characters and quotes from Animal Farm as well as the contextual influences on the book. Students should use their English books and the resources on Firefly to aid revision.</p> <p>Section B – students will answer a question comparing two poems from the AQA Anthology: Poems Past and Present. In preparation, candidates will need to revise the poems in their anthology and make links between them. Students should use their English books and the resources on Firefly to aid revision.</p> <p>Section C – students will answer one question on an unseen poem and a second question comparing two unseen poems. In preparation, candidates will need to revise how to read poetry and analyse meaning.</p>
French and German	<p>Students should prepare for the reading, listening and writing examinations by learning topic specific vocabulary and practising the reading and listening tasks, all of which, can all be found on Firefly in the "Revise" section and by using the "Memrise" link on the Web-links section. Students can also find exam style reading tasks in the challenge section of their work booklets. The topics (at Foundation level) will range from Healthy and Unhealthy Lifestyles, Relationships with Family and Friends, Free Time & the Media, Holidays and Travel, Home and Environment Work and Education and extracts from a literary text .</p> <p>For the French written paper questions will include tasks on the topics of school, family & friends and home and local environment.</p> <p>For the German written paper questions will include tasks on the topics of school, lifestyles, family & friends and attitudes to marriage.</p>
Geography	<p>Students should revise the following two topics for their Year 10 exam: 'The Living World' and 'Physical Landscapes of the UK'. Students should revise both the processes and case studies for each topic. Students can use their green AQA Revision Guide (pages 20-31 and 37-56) or their purple AQA Revision Guide (pages 28-46 and 54-80,) as well as the internet and their books to learn the content for each topic. Students should practise exam technique (especially for 6 to 9 mark questions), and familiarise themselves with the command words used in exam questions. Students must remember they will also be assessed on map skills in this exam and therefore should practise how to read 4 and 6 figure grid references and how to measure scale. Students can refer to the topic overviews in the GCSE section on Firefly to see what content they need to revise in each topic.</p>
History	<p>Year 10 should revise two units: Crime and Punishment and Whitechapel. The exam will last 1 hour 15 minutes and there will be a 4, 12 and 20 mark question on Crime and Punishment and a 4, 8 and 4 mark question on Whitechapel.</p>
Maths	<p>Students will be sitting a calculator exam paper based on the mathematics they have learnt to date. Students should revise all of the topics that they have covered this year. Revision resources are available on Firefly.</p>
Music	<p>The exam will consist of 3 sections. The first 2 will follow the standard GCSE format:</p> <p>Section A will consist of listening to extracts from the set works studied to date (Bach 'Brandenburg Concerto', Beethoven 'Piano Sonata' and Purcell 'Music for A While'), and related but unseen works.</p> <p>Section B will be an essay style question where students answer 1 of 2 questions based on the set works studied to date.</p> <p>Section C will be short answer questions based on keys, key signatures and cadences.</p> <p>There will also be a performance element that will take place during lessons before the exam period.</p>
PE	<p>The summer term PE exam will be sat by all Year 10 GCSE PE students. They should focus on they should focus on the 2 booklets they have completed so far this year. This includes work on the cardio vascular and respiratory system. The short and long term effects of exercise, Levers and Axis. The Principles of Training and Training methods. Students will be given their class booklets to revise from and additional support from their individual class teachers in preparation for the exam. There are also class power points on Firefly to help them.</p>
RE	<p>Eduqas Examination board, Component 2 Christianity/ Component 3 Judaism: In preparation for the one hour year 10 Examination it is advised that students revise the units: Component 2 Christianity and Component 3 Judaism. Students will be required to answer two full questions, each having parts a, b, c and d. It is recommended that students spend 30 minutes on each complete question; a one hour assessment in total. It is important that students use the writing frame guidance and support material given out in class. The resource booklets are housed on the New GCSE Course Outline page on Firefly and all students have been directed to this page by their teacher.</p>
Biology	<p>The year 10 exam will focus on the following topics: Cells, Organisation, Infection and Response and Bioenergetics. The GCSE Biology Revision Guide you have been provided with covers these topics in detail.</p>
Chemistry	<p>For the Year 10 Chemistry exam students should revise the following topics: Structure and Bonding, Polymers, Electrolysis and Water units from this year, together with the Atoms (including formula mass and percentage composition), Oil and Rates of Reaction units from Year 9. The GCSE Chemistry Revision Guide you have been provided with covers these topics in detail.</p>
Physics	<p>The Year 10 exam will cover the following topics: Particles, Energy, Current Electricity, Mains Electricity, Magnetism and Atomic structure, which have been built on since Year 9. The GCSE Physics Revision Guide you have been provided with covers these topics in detail.</p>

I hope that you have found this information useful in providing specific details on what your son or daughter should be revising between now and the exams in May. It is important that Year 10 students are now setting aside a significant amount of time (in the evenings, on the weekends and over the Easter holidays) to prepare for these exams. Students will need to strike a balance over the holidays between enjoying a well-deserved break and preparing for their internal Year 10 exams. This will not necessarily be easy but if students put the hard work in now, use the Easter break wisely and then come back ready to do their best, they can be confident about receiving their exam results in the Summer Term.

Formal feedback on performance in these exams will be given in the Year 10 Grade Reports which will be available online from 27th June 2017.

Finally, please note that **SMARTWATCHES** have now joined mobile phones, iPods and MP3/4 players on the list of 'potential technological/web enabled sources of information' that are classified as 'unauthorised items' and must therefore not be brought into any exam. Possession of such items in a public exam is deemed as a 'serious offence' by all exam boards and will typically result in disqualification if found in the student's possession during an exam. We apply the same rules to our Year 10 examinations and ask for your support in conveying the importance of this message to your son/daughter.

Should you have any further questions regarding these exams, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant Subject Leader(s) in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

CHRISTIAN HUGHES
Assistant Headteacher

Date	Periods 1 and 2 (8.55-11.05)		Period 4 (11.45-12.45)		Periods 5 and 6 (1.40-3.45)	
Mon (B) 8 MAY	ENGLISH LITERATURE	9.00-11.15	PHYSICS	11.45-12.45	RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	1.40-2.40
Tues 9 MAY	MATHS	9.00-10.45	BIOLOGY	11.45-12.45	Option Block A BUSINESS STUDIES COMPUTER SCIENCE FOOD PREP & NUTRITION FRENCH – Writing GEOGRAPHY HISTORY	1.40-2.40 1.40-3.10 1.40-2.40 1.40-2.40 1.40-2.40 1.40-2.55
Wed 10 MAY	ENGLISH LANGUAGE	9.00-10.45	CHEMISTRY	11.45-12.45	Option Block B BUSINESS STUDIES DT PRODUCT DESIGN FRENCH – Writing GEOGRAPHY GERMAN – Writing HISTORY P.E.	1.40-2.40 1.40-2.40 1.40-2.40 1.40-2.40 1.40-2.40 1.40-2.55 1.40-2.40
Thur 11 MAY	Option Block C BUSINESS STUDIES DT PRODUCT DESIGN FRENCH – Writing GEOGRAPHY HISTORY	9.00-10.00 9.00-10.00 9.00-10.00 9.00-10.00 9.00-10.15	FRENCH – Listening GERMAN – Reading	11.45-12.20 11.45-12.30	Option Block D BUSINESS STUDIES COMPUTER SCIENCE FOOD PREP & NUTRITION DT PRODUCT DESIGN FRENCH – Writing GEOGRAPHY HISTORY P.E.	1.40-2.40 1.40-3.10 1.40-2.40 1.40-2.40 1.40-2.40 1.40-2.40 1.40-2.55 1.40-2.40
Fri 12 MAY	Option Block E DT PRODUCT DESIGN FRENCH – Writing GEOGRAPHY GERMAN – Writing HISTORY	9.00-10.00 9.00-10.00 9.00-10.00 9.00-10.00 9.00-10.15	GERMAN – Listening FRENCH - Reading	11.45-12.20 11.45-12.30	MUSIC	1.40-3.10