

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that at this point in time now, your children only have five more weeks remaining with OPA - the time has passed so quickly! This time last year, we were preparing them for their Y10 mocks and from that moment on, I have been so impressed with their hard work, commitment, resilience and maturity towards their GCSEs.

I hope that it has not gone unnoticed, the hard work and commitment shown by the team at OPA throughout your child's time with us, but especially in the last 12 months to support, encourage, nurture and academically challenge our students, to help them to achieve their full potential.

From the Y11 mentoring programme, to university visits, reward trips, half term revision sessions, morning, food break, after school and Saturday intervention sessions. Counselling, external mentoring, mock reveals, progress evenings, free revision resources and a designated study area just for their use. The students have received core subject teaching during tutor time each morning since this time last year, revision calendars at least a month in advance of each round of mock exams, and dropdown days for coursework completion or exam boosters the day before any formal vocational course exams. Anything that we could think of, we have done our best to facilitate.

It's been an incredibly busy year, and we are very proud of how well our Y11 students have worked and engaged with all of the support on offer.

Since Easter:

Recognising the loss of learning from the Covid lockdowns, we rejigged our timetable for the Y11 students during the last three weeks. All students were reallocated to a core revision tutor group. As the majority of vocational courses came to completion at Easter, we used those three hours of lesson time each week to allocate each of the students an additional three hours of core or Ebacc subject specialist support in small groups. The students have received this very positively and engaged well with their sessions. The improvement in their subject knowledge and exam-technique in these subjects has improved significantly as a consequence. This has provided an additional 9hrs of targeted support for each vocational course a student has been swapped out of, with the majority of our students receiving 18 hours of these sessions across the three-week period.

The Next Five Weeks:

To continue to use all of their time and our staffing to the optimum during the five-week exam window commencing next week, we have revised the timetable again. All students from Monday will follow our Y11 Exam Booster timetable. They will still arrive at 8:20am for line up and depart at 3pm each day. Throughout the day, the students will receive subject specialist support for the exam they will be sitting the next day. We followed a similar programme back in 2019 (pre-Covid) and it worked very well, giving our students last minute exam tips and recap on key content and boosting their confidence just before each of their exams. This is our final drive to give them our full support and specialist knowledge.

This programme will commence Monday, after assembly, and take the students right up to their final exam on Thursday 23rd June.

There is no study leave, in line with guidance, and therefore consistent with schools nationally. The students have been made aware of this for quite some time.

All students will receive their hard copy of the Exam Booster timetable on Monday in assembly and I will be taking them through the details around exam start and end times also.

Revision at Home:

Please do note, that while we are trying to provide this additional specialist revision support, your child must continue to revise at home during the evenings and weekends, in order to achieve their very best in their exams. This is a once in a life time opportunity for them to broaden their life chances and we would appreciate your support with continuing to encourage them to work hard at home also. In addition to this, we will be providing revision workshops during the half term break also, and I will share the timetable for this, next week.

Exams Times:

Students will need to be registered and enter the exam rooms at 08:30am.

It is therefore crucial that your child arrives at 8:20am for line up and registration on all days, but especially on the days of their exams. For afternoon exams, students will be registered and enter the exam rooms at 12:30pm.

The afternoon exams will finish at 3pm at the latest. As the students will miss food break 2 on these days, we will be providing a snack and bottle of water thirty minutes before they register for the exam. Hot food and sandwiches will still be available at Food break 1 service on those days.

Absence/Sickness During Exams:

If your child has any type of appointment (e.g. medical) that clashes with an exam, please cancel and rearrange the appointment.

Exam boards will not provide special considerations for missing an exam due to appointments and your child would receive a U in this instance. If in doubt, please contact me as a matter of urgency and at least 48hrs prior to the exam you are calling about.

If your child is unwell on the day of an exam, they must try to come into school. If, however, their symptoms are serious and require emergency/hospital attention, please contact us as soon as possible to make us aware and please ask the hospital for medical evidence we can provide to the exam boards. Even with evidence, exam boards provide very little dispensation for missing an exam, so this must be avoided as much as possible and should be a last resort due a medical emergency.

If your child has a high temperature, and could potentially have Covid, please contact us by telephone immediately for guidance.

Student Conduct for the Next Five Weeks

Throughout the exams period, we will continue to have high expectations of good behaviour and conduct from all of our students.

We will not tolerate any breach of exam conditions or JCQ regulations by any student.

Anything of this nature will be reported to the exam boards, which may result in a student being disqualified from that exam and all others with that exam board, and possibly their other exam boards also, for malpractice.

If student does not meet exam conditions during the exams or disrupts the learning of others during the booster sessions, **we will be removing their invitation to the Prom as consequence.** We may also need to review if they can sit any further exams with us at that point, depending on the severity of their conduct.

We will always prioritise the needs and rights of all of our students collectively over the actions of an individual. We appreciate having your support with this.

Please do speak to your child about the importance of this and we will reiterate this to the students again in assembly this Monday.

Part of JCQ requirements is that no students take mobile phones, any type of watch or electronic device into the exam rooms. From having a routine hand-in process practised during our mock exams, and any formal exams we have had, our students are very familiar with this expectation and know that taking in a banned item will lead to disqualification with the exam boards. We still have a duty to ensure that all students comply with this requirement, and will therefore be checking this with the students for their exams.

Mental Health and Well being - During the Exams

Please do expect for your child to become a little stressed at times from the exams and from revision. This is very normal and to be expected. Everyone else will be experiencing similar feelings. Please encourage your child to eat well, sleep well (go to bed at a sensible time) and take short regular breaks between revision sessions at home. They may feel that some exams do not go as well as they would have liked, and this can be tough. Doing their best is all that anyone can ask of them - please remind them of this, and we will be here to offer support and guidance in school. If you have any concerns about your child's mental health during the exams, please do not hesitate to contact us. Miss Berry, Miss Young and I will do our best to offer support. Please also visit our website for the contact details of a number of external services for mental health and well being for young people in Thurrock:

<https://ormistonpark.org.uk/key-info/safeguarding>

To provide a welcome distraction from the exams, as well as some fresh air and fun, our PE team will be providing a range of activities and games out on the field (weather permitting) most Food break 2s - except when we have afternoon exams. If your child wishes to participate, they just need to bring their PE kit and will be permitted to remain in their kit for their Period 5 Booster sessions. This is ONLY for period 5.

Students must wear their full school uniform for all exams and Booster sessions.

We hope the exam seasons runs as smoothly as possible for your child. We are here to help and support them.

Should you have any questions about the Exam Booster timetable or the exams, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will do my utmost to help.

Yours Sincerely,

Sarah Thacker
Assistant Principal

Y11 Exam Booster Timetable: Monday 16th – Friday 27th May

Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
16		17		18		19		20	
ALL DAY - BIOLOGY REG, P1 - P6 DUR - ROOM 34 THA - ROOM 36 GOP - ROOM 37 RAV - ROOM 35 ROB - ROOM 17		AM: Biology P1		Am: English Lang P1		AM: History P1		MATHS REG, P1 - P3 RAS - H TIER RM 47 HOQ - F TIER RM 31	
		ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 1 P3 - P5 SHR - SETS 1 & 2 (MAIN THEATRE) SML - SET 4 (ROOM 23) EBA - HALF SET 3 (ROOM 43) TNA - HALF SET 3 (ROOM 39)		HISTORY P1 P3 - P5 HAY - C ROOM 11 BAR - A ROOM 10		MATHS P1 P3 - P5 MUB - 11.1 (RM 47) RAS - 11.2 (RM 9) HOQ - 11.3 (RM 31) BHA - 11.4 (RM 26)		MATHS P3 - P5 MUB - 11.1 (RM 47) RAS - 11.2 (RM 11) HOQ - 11.3 (RM 31) BHA - 11.4 (RM 26)	
23		24		25		26		27	
AM: Geog P1		AM: French List & Read		AM: English Lit P1		CHEMISTRY P1 REG, P1 - P5 THA H TIER LECTURE THEATRE DUR 11.3 ROOM 34 RAV HALF 11.4 ROOM 35 EDS HALF 11.4 ROOM 17		AM: Chemistry P1	
FRENCH L&R P3 - P5 ABE - B ROOM 21 NKA - C ROOM 29+A2:B7A1:B7G6A3:B 7A1:D7A1:F7A1:H7		ENG LIT P3 - P5 SHR - SETS 1&2 (RM 38) SML - SETS 3&4 (RM 23) TNA - SETS 3&4 (RM 39)		ENGLISH LITERATURE PAPER 1 P3 - P5 SHR - SETS 1 & 2 (ROOM 40) SML - SET 4 (ROOM 23) EBA - HALF SET 3 (ROOM 43) TNA - HALF SET 3 (ROOM 39)		CHEMISTRY P1 P3 - P5 THA H TIER LECTURE THEATRE DUR 11.3 F TIER ROOM 34 RAV HALF 11.4 ROOM 35 EDS HALF 11.4 ROOM 17		MATHS P2 P3 - P5 MUB - 11.1 (RM 47) RAS - 11.2 (RM 36) HOQ - 11.3 (RM 31) BHA - 11.4 (RM 26)	

Students will be allocated to their Booster groups at line up each day – please ensure arrival for 08:20am

All exams are in the shaded boxes. Yellow = whole cohort exams Blue/Green = Options Subjects

Y11 Exam Booster Timetable: Monday 6th – Thursday 23rd June

Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
6		7		8		9		10	
GEOG P2 REG, P1 - P5 HEW - A RM 9 MCA - B RM 25		MATHS P2 REG, P1 - P5 MUB - 11.1 (RM 47) RAS - 11.2 (RM ?) HOQ - 11.3 (RM 31) BHA - 11.4 (RM 26)		AM: Maths Paper 2		AM: English Lit P2		AM: English Lang P2	
		PM: Geog P2		PM: Further Maths P1		PM: Physics P1		MATHS P2 MUB - 11.1 (RM 47) RAS - 11.2 (RM 36) HOQ - 11.3 (RM 31) BHA - 11.4 (RM 26)	
13		14		15		16		17	
AM: Maths P3		AM: Geog P3		AM: Biology P2		AM: History P2		CHEMISTRY P1 THA H TIER LECTURE THEATRE DUR 11.3 ROOM 34 RAV HALF 11.4 ROOM 35 EDS HALF 11.4 ROOM 17	
GEOG P2 HEW - A RM 9 MCA - B RM 25		BIOLOGY P2 DUR - H RM 36 THA - H RM 34 RAV - F RM 35		BIOLOGY P2 DUR - H RM 36 THA - H RM 25 ROB - F RM 37 RAV - F RM 35 GOP - F RM 17		HISTORY P2 HAY - C RM 11 CAN - A RM 10		FRENCH W ABE - B ROOM 21 NKA - C ROOM 29	
GEOG P2 HEW - A RM 9 MCA - B RM 25		BIOLOGY P2 DUR - H RM 36 THA - H RM 34 RAV - F RM 35		BIOLOGY P2 DUR - H RM 36 THA - H RM 25 ROB - F RM 37 RAV - F RM 35 GOP - F RM 17		HISTORY P2 HAY - C RM 11 CAN - A RM 10		FRENCH W ABE - B ROOM 21 NKA - C ROOM 29 CHEM P2 THA - H RM 34 RAV & EDS - F RM 35	
20		21		22		23		24	
AM: Chemistry P2		PHYS P1 GOP - RM 36 DUR - RM 34 THA - RM 17 ROB - RM 37 RAV - RM 35		FURTHER MATHS P3 - P5 MUB - ROOM 47		PHYS P1 GOP - RM 36 DUR - RM 34 THA - RM 17 EDS - RM 37 RAV - RM 35		AM: Physics P2	
PHYS P1 GOP - RM 36 DUR - RM 34 THA - RM 17 ROB - RM 37 RAV - RM 35		PHYS P1 GOP - RM 36 DUR - RM 34 THA - RM 17 RAV - RM 35		FURTHER MATHS P3 - P5 MUB - ROOM 47		PM: Further Maths P2		Year 11 Prom	
						Y11 Leaver's Assembly			

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