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24th January 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

YEAR 9 EXAMINATIONS: 26TH FEBRUARY – 2ND MARCH 2018

I am writing to inform you about the Year 9 examination period, which this year will take place from Monday 26th February up to Friday 2nd March 2018. As you will be now fully aware, year group examinations represent a key point in the cycle of the academic year for any year group, and for Year 9, the week represents both **the most important week in their school lives at TBSHS this year**, as well as being a great opportunity for your son to show us exactly what he is capable of academically.

Boys have performed very well in their examinations in the past two year previously, and we expect to see another strong performance from them in the forthcoming examination week outlined above.

The timetable for the exams is attached. The key points for the examinations are as follows:

1. Boys will sit all examinations in the room that they would normally have their lesson in for that period, regardless of the subject being examined. There will be a small number of room changes during the week to accommodate exams, and boys will be advised of this in due course.
2. Your son will still need to register at the usual times during the day (0830 and 1500) with their form tutor as normal.
3. As with any lesson, it is especially vital that boys are punctual for lessons that examinations are taking place in.
4. When your son does not have an exam, lessons will run as normal, in the usual room.
5. Throughout the examination period, all boys are expected to bring all usual equipment for their day at school as normal.
6. Students must be prepared with the correct equipment for their examinations; if unsure they should check with their subject teachers what is required.
7. Absences from examinations are only acceptable in the case of exceptional circumstances or illness.
8. Students must display exemplary examination conduct at all times, as directed and supervised by members of staff and in accordance with the JCQ National Exam Conduct guidelines. These guidelines will be reviewed with the boys in assembly before the examination period. Any form of examination misconduct will not be tolerated, and will be sanctioned severely.

Your son will have received a revision timetable for him to construct for himself under the guidance of his tutor. I would encourage you to look through and monitor his adherence to this revision plan.

It should be stressed that boys do not need to fill every box, but the planner helps them to structure their time around their existing activities and commitments towards a level of revision that they will need to be able to conduct successfully once they reach their public examinations in Y11.

The durations for revision times on school days reflect the amount of time commitment needed to effectively revise for public examinations as we move forward. Revision on non-contact days and at weekends should aim to reflect the time spent learning over a normal school day (around 5 hours).

Boys need to ensure that they are putting in work now in terms of getting used to spending a significant amount of time on revision in preparation for examinations well before they reach public examinations in Y11. Hence, it is extremely important that boys get into good habits now, aspiring to stretch themselves in terms of preparation for examinations, aiming to do as much revision as possible, rather than simply expect to be able to switch on such habits further up the school, which in an overwhelming majority of cases simply does not work.

Boys and parents should be mindful that after the Y9 examinations, there are only 2 more 'practice' examination sessions until real GCSEs. Boys should seek advice from their subject teachers to find out what material will be examinable for this examination period as soon as possible.



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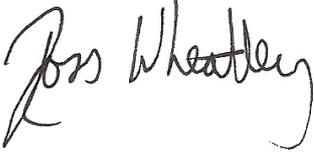
Boys should be mindful that the Y9 examinations represent a point in their school career where it is imperative for them to showcase their academic performance, progress and potential. The results of the examinations will have an overwhelming impact on individual departments' setting and grouping decisions for next year, as well as form key evidence for continuing to chart boy's likely academic path forwards, and help to make decisions as to if it is advisable and sensible for boys to continue studying a particular option subject.

It is certainly worth noting that all examinations results, regardless of if a boy is planning to continue studying the subject past Y9, are used in producing progression predictions for public examinations across all subjects in the years to come. It is therefore vitally important that boys are mindful of the damage that poor performance now can have on academic option choices and eventual performance in public examinations in the future, regardless of if they are planning on continuing on with a particular subject or not past the end of this academic year.

It is essential that these exams are taken seriously, and that good examination revision, study and preparation habits are formed at a young age, in order to lay the foundations for success in the years to come.

Thank you for your continued support and I would like to wish your son every success in his examinations. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries that you may have at any time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ross Wheatley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'R'.

Mr Ross Wheatley

Head of Year 9