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11th May 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians

Year 11 External Examinations

It has been very rewarding to see our Year 11 cohort grow in confidence over the last month or two ahead of the beginning of our exams next week. It is perfectly normal and entirely natural for our Year 11s to now be feeling a little nervous about their exams, but we can reassure you that they have worked very hard to ensure that they are now well equipped to make a real success of their upcoming exams.

Over the course of the year we have written to you on a number of occasions about preparations for examinations, so most of the information in this message is repeated. We would, however, like to share with you a few key reminders and pieces of information that we also shared with our students in assembly on Tuesday; we would really appreciate you also going through these important expectations with them prior to Monday.

Being prepared for exams

We do not have much equipment to lend, so please can you help your child by making sure they bring with them:

- Black pens, pencil
- Ruler
- Maths equipment
- Calculator

Malpractice

Young people are often given second chances at school and encouraged to learn from their mistakes. In an external examination there are certain rules that must be followed. Failing to follow these is malpractice and the school **has to report this to the exam board**; this usually results in loss of marks or disqualification. Examples of malpractice include:

- Bringing a mobile phone into the examination room/hall
- Bringing in **anything** with writing on it
- Writing on their hand/arm/etc...even if it is a tiny doodle irrelevant to the examination
- Wearing a watch
- Talking, turning around or any form of attempted communication with another student once in the examination room/hall
- Disturbing the exam in any way
- Not following the instructions of the invigilator
- Leaving the examination hall/room without permission



If you feel that your child may not remember to hand in their phone every day, please do not allow them to take it to school. We are unable to individually check 300 students at the same time for a mobile phone.

Examination Information Booklet

More information about the exams is in the Examination Information Booklet; if you have not already read this with your child, please do so before the exams start.

<https://www.arden.solihull.sch.uk/assets/Uploads/Downloads/Exams/Examination-Information-Booklet-for-Students-2022-23.pdf>

On the day of an exam, if your child is unwell or there is a situation at home that may require the school to apply for special consideration, it is important that you let the school know immediately - please email office@arden.solihull.sch.uk. Again, please refer to the Examination Information Booklet as this provides more information.

Adjustments made in response to the disruption caused by the pandemic

More information can be found in the link at the end of this letter, but in brief, Ofqual and the DfE are making the following adjustments to the examinations this summer:

- Formula and equations sheets are used in science and maths.
- Grading protection is in place, which means fewer marks may be needed this year in some subjects to gain a grade, when compared to the years before the pandemic.
- Exam papers have been more spaced out.
- Unfamiliar vocabulary is not tested in language subjects.

Letter for Parents/Guardians from the DfE

The DfE has asked that all schools share with Year 11 students and their parents/guardians the following letter from the Chief Regulator at Ofqual:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/letter-to-parents-april-2023/letter-to-parents-april-2023?utm_source=3%20May%202023%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

Thank you so much for all of your support to help ensure that we reach this important stage of Year 11 with our students thoroughly prepared and ready to sit their exams. We are very proud of them and are very grateful for all of the support that you have provided us and them. I am sure that, like ourselves, there are times when you pinch yourself at the reality of the time going so quickly and that they are now beginning their exams. We wish them all every success and we are confident that they will achieve the excellent results that their efforts deserve.

Yours sincerely



Mr Warwood
Associate Headteacher

