

January 2011

To Parents of pupils in Year 11

Dear Parent

### **GCSE Trial Examinations and Study Leave**

The GCSE Trial Examinations for Year 11 will take place from Monday 24 January 2011 up to and including Thursday 3 February. All pupils will be involved in the Chemistry and English papers on the morning of 24 January, but are on study leave from Period 6 on that day until the end of examination period. They will all be involved in the Chemistry and Maths papers on the morning of Thursday 3 February and will resume normal lessons with Games on that afternoon. The full schedule of Trial Examinations is enclosed.

During study leave there will be no timetabled lessons and pupils do not normally need to attend school except for when they have an examination. However, pupils may be required to attend revision sessions, seminars, instrumental music lessons or to see a member of staff. Pupils may use the school's recognised study areas (the Library or, at busy times, classrooms allocated for private study) during normal school hours and may use common room areas at school break and lunch times. They may not enter the Dining Hall before the normal time for their year group. Pupils coming into school either for examinations or to study must wear full school uniform. If not sitting an examination they must sign the register which is available near the security office under the main school archway. This register need not be signed if a pupil comes into school within 30 minutes of the start of an examination they are taking.

Please impress upon your son or daughter the need to prepare carefully for these examinations. The Trial Examinations are an opportunity to sit the GCSE papers under examination conditions and prepare for the summer. The preparation work done at this stage will be of great benefit during the revision build up next term and in the summer term and a strong set of results in February will give confidence for the final examinations. I would encourage pupils to revise thoroughly over the Christmas break and then to address any weaknesses highlighted in the Trial Examinations with their subject teachers afterwards. A document entitled Revising for Exams can be found on the school website (Senior School > 9 -11 Information). **On Friday 7 January there will be a special examination briefing assembly in John Pounds for Year 11.**

Following the trial examination period, we are organising a study skills/revision morning in the Gym for Year 10/11 pupils. This will be on Friday 18 February (Inset Day). Letters inviting you to apply for this will be sent out shortly.

There will be an opportunity to discuss the results of the Trial Examinations with your son or daughter's subject teachers and Tutor at the Year 11 Parents' Evening on Wednesday 2 March. You will receive a letter about this after Christmas.

I would like to draw your attention to the Year 11 Sixth Form Subject Forum. This takes place in the Bawtree Building from 6.30 pm to 8.00 pm on Monday 10 January and will be an opportunity for pupils and parents to discuss A Level and IB courses and options with representatives of

academic departments and members of the Sixth Form team. A separate letter about this is enclosed with this end of term mailing.

Finally, along with the end of term mailing you should receive a full academic report on your son/daughter's progress. I would encourage pupils to read their reports carefully and to act upon the advice given at this stage. They should also not hesitate to ask for further assistance from subject teachers if it is needed and to attend clinics and extra revision session as advised. If parents have any concerns please do contact your son or daughter's Tutor in the New Year to discuss these.

I do hope you had an enjoyable Christmas.

Yours sincerely

**N G Waters**  
**Head of Years 9 - 11**