



1st May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

GCSE Examinations | Thursday, 9th May – Thursday, 20th June

Your child will be sitting their final GCSE examinations which are starting from Thursday, 9th May until Thursday, 20th June. The exam series can be a stressful time for students and it is important that they are as prepared as possible in the lead up to each exam and on the day of every examination. Your child needs to attend every examination even if they are extremely unwell; they will not receive a grade for any paper they missed.

During the GCSE season, we will be making changes to the Year 11 timetable to ensure that students have access to revision sessions and enter the exam room feeling as calm and prepared as possible. These sessions are compulsory and the expectations are the same high expectations as for any normal school day. All students must bring full equipment to every session, students need to be in full and correct uniform (no jewellery, trainers, make-up, etc. allowed), and students must arrive on time to every session. If these expectations are not upheld, then your child will not be allowed to attend their session.

Summer 2024 Exam timetable

The attached exam timetable has been shared with and explained to your child. Please refer to the code on the timetable to identify when your child has exams and revision sessions.

GCSE exams

On the day of an exam, they must arrive by 8:15am for morning exams and by 1:00pm for afternoon exams. Students have been advised to leave plenty of travel time to account for unforeseen circumstances e.g. transport issues, as this is not a valid reason for missing an exam or being late for an exam. On exam mornings breakfast will be provided for students free of charge.

Students must bring full equipment, including spare pens, pencils, etc. for every exam. Each evening before an exam, please check that your child knows which exam they have, what time they need to be in school and if they have all of the correct equipment e.g. a calculator.

Revision sessions

Revision sessions are compulsory, led by your child's class teacher to ensure that your child is best prepared ahead of their forthcoming exams.

The exam timetable is divided and split into X, Y and Z bands to give clarity over where your child needs to be at what time.

They must arrive by 8:45am for morning sessions. If they do not have a session during period 1, they need to arrive 10 minutes before their next session to ensure they arrive to their session before the second buzzer. If they are late, they will not be allowed into the session; instead, they will complete independent work elsewhere until their next session. Punctuality and full equipment are essential to ensure that other students' learning is not affected.

Your child will be issued with an ID card, which they will use to tap in and tap out every day to register their attendance and to ensure we know which students are on site.

What if my child is very unwell?

They must attend every exam, otherwise they will not receive a grade in the paper they missed, which will hugely affect their final GCSE grade. Please ring the school to inform us of your child's illness so we can take that into consideration and provide the relevant support.

How can I support my child during the exam series?

- Encourage good sleep habits
- Ensure your child eats breakfast
- Check your child's equipment the night before the exam
- Ensure your child leaves punctually every morning with enough time to take into consideration any unforeseen circumstances
- Ensure your child attends every session
- Ensure your child is revising, effectively and efficiently

What parents/careers can do to help their child to study most effectively at home:

- Minimise distractions (provide a quiet place to revise, remove mobile phone etc.)
- Check they are using the best revision method (retrieval practice – revision strategies)
- Get your child to teach you the material
- Minimise procrastination, provide motivation

Year 11 GCSE Results Day | Thursday, 22nd August 2024

GCSE results should be collected from the school's Sixth Form Area on Thursday, 22nd August 2024.

9am – 10am: R&I students to collect their results

10am – 11am: V, E & S students to collect their results

If parents want to come with their child to collect their result, then they must wait at reception.

Students must collect their results in person. However, if they would like us to give their results to a parent or other family member, the student must write a letter to inform the school of the collecting adult's name and relationship to the child. The collecting adult will also need to present some form of identification such as, a driving licence or passport which matches the name on the letter.

Kind regards,

J Hilton

Ms J Hilton

Deputy Head – Teaching, learning and assessment

Riverside School

Barking

IG11 0FU

Phone: 02082706981