



## HEADTEACHER

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Dear Parent/Carer

### **GCSE module re-takes after the Year 10 examinations**

The modular examination structure has been designed to relieve the pressure of final term examinations of the GCSE course. We enter students for some of the modules in some subjects in year 10 to enable this spread of assessment and expect this to be an opportunity for students to benefit from the completion of some of the examination demands in a staged process.

We do not offer module examinations or re-take opportunity in the January examinations when the students in Year 11 are sitting their practice examinations. This is to allow them to focus on the practice examination revision and examination procedure which is designed to ensure that a considerable amount of knowledge and skills are consolidated in preparation for the summer examinations.

For a few students it is advisable that they re-take one or more of the module examinations taken in Year 10. These can be taken in the summer examination period in year 11. Re-take examinations are an extra demand on time and energy and should only be taken after careful consideration.

If you are considering requesting an entry for a re-take examination in the summer exams in Year 11 you are advised to discuss this with the relevant subject teacher at the parent consultation evening on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November. You may request an appointment on the reply slip for the parent consultation evening.

If, after discussion, you would like to request a re-take examination for your daughter/son, they will be required to collect the relevant form from the examinations officer, Ms Patel, on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2011 during the morning form period. This must be returned to the finance office by 8.45am on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November with the examination entry fee.

An overview of the re-sit application will be taken by the Head of Learning, Mr Needham, and me. We will advise students who are deemed to be in need of further guidance.

To help you in your decision please see below for a summary of the marks available for the modules taken in year 10 and their contribution to the final GCSE grade.

#### **1. Marks for modules taken in Y10:**

Note: retake marks can go up or down. In all GCSE courses 40% of the course must be examined at the end of the course. If the re-sit entry made up a proportion of the 40% then this mark will be used in the final aggregation, not necessarily the higher mark. This should not affect our students because all subjects will be submitting more than 40% of the marks in the final examination period in June Year 11.

## **2. Working out the marks.**

Each subject has different weightings for each module. When looking at the level achieved in the year 10 module examination and considering a re-sit, students will need to understand the grade boundaries for the total course marks and the marks necessary to make a difference in the final grade. In most cases students will be well advised to concentrate on the modules being taught and examined in year 11 and gain the maximum marks on these and not to rely on re-learning material that will not have been covered recently.

- a. **Science:** Each of the module papers in year 10 are marked out of 45. These marks are then translated into UMS marks, ranging from 0-100. A maximum of 300 UMS marks in total are gained from the 3 examinations and 100 from the ISA (Investigative Skills assessment, taken during class time), giving a total of 400 UMS marks.

The grade boundaries are based on the total UMS marks. 360/400 is the boundary for an A\*, 320/400 for an A grade.

A pupil who has achieved a few UMS marks below that which they had expected might be best advised to concentrate on gaining high UMS marks on the 2 remaining examined modules and the ISA., rather than resitting module 1.

- b. **History:** Pupils are advised to consult with their history teacher about whether they should resit a unit. As a general principle they should not do so if they are just a mark or two short of the next grade. However they are encouraged to think about resitting as part of a strategy to secure an A or A\* grade. Each of the 2 module examinations taken in Year 10 (units 1 & 3) contributes 25% of the total marks for the GCSE. Each unit will be awarded 100 UMS marks. The grade boundaries are 90 for an A\*, 80 for an A, 70 for a B on each module. The final grade is based on the accumulated UMS marks, 360/400 for an A\*; 320/400 for a grade A; 280/400 for a grade B.
- c. **Business Studies:** The Business Studies Module 1 is a multiple choice paper marked out of 40, allocated a total of 50 UMS marks. 45 UMS marks is the boundary for an A\*, 40 UMS marks for an A grade, 35 for a B grade. This comprises 25% of the total UMS marks for the course which is marked out of 200 UMS marks. The final grade boundaries are; A\*= 180/200; A = 160/200, B = 140/200.
- d. **Design Technology:** individual components may not be retaken in Design Technology.
- e. **Geography:** The modular examination is one of two examinations taken in this subject and is worth 37.5% of the final mark. The paper is marked out of 75 and allocated a total of 150 UMS marks. The grade boundaries are 135 for an A\*, 120 for an A, 105 for a B, 90 for a C, 75 for a D. The final grade is based on the accumulated UMS scores, 360/400 for an A\*; 320/400 for a grade A; 280/400 for a grade B.

Yours sincerely,



Linda Beskeen,  
Deputy Head Curriculum.