



**“Be Inspired & Achieve Together”**

11<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Year 11 Exam Guidance 2022**

We are now entering our final few weeks before the start of the GCSE and Vocational qualification examination period and I would like to take this opportunity to praise our students for their hard work and attitude so far. Please can I ask that you encourage them to make the most of the time and support available in the coming weeks in order to maximise their results in August and opportunities available regarding their next steps in September.

To support preparations, we have put together a series of Frequently Asked Questions and Exam Hints and Tips. Please read through the following information with your child and ask them to speak to their tutor, Mrs Dixon, Mr Hatfield or myself if they have any questions.

It has been a real pleasure to be the SLT link to this year group again and reflect back on my memories of them joining in year 7 including a fantastic few days at year 7 camp. I would like to wish each of our students the best of luck with their upcoming exams and I look forward to celebrating with them on results day in August.

Kind regards

Ella Strawbridge

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## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Will lessons continue as normal during the exam period?**

Yes, we are planning to continue the normal school timetable as much as possible during the exam period. Students will be provided with revision time in subjects that have completed all forms of assessment. In these cases, students will be expected to have revision materials with them to use.

A small number of timetable changes have been planned to take place to ensure that students receive subject specific revision in the days leading up to each exam. Students will be provided with details of these changes during guidance sessions.

### **When will they break up?**

Students should continue to attend every day up to and including Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June and attend a Biology revision session. The start time for the revision session has been staggered to ensure that students completing the Geography or Statistics exam on that day can also receive the provision.

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June all students will be expected to attend the academy in the morning for a Chemistry revision session. The start time for the session will be staggered to allow for students completing the History and French exam.

Following this all students will be expected to attend their remaining exams or if invited for a revision session. Details of the sessions are given below.

### **What time should my child arrive to school?**

As mentioned above, students should continue to attend every day up to and including Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June by 8.25am as per the normal school day.

Following this date if your child is required to attend school for either an exam or revision session they must arrive at the times given below:

AM session – Students must arrive to school via the Clarborough Drive entrance by 8.25am.

PM session – Students must arrive via the main entrance between 12.30-12.45pm.

### **Do students need to continue to wear school uniform?**

Yes, students should continue to attend the academy in full uniform including school shoes for all exams, lessons and revision sessions.

### **What equipment do they need?**

2 Black pens

Pencil

Ruler

Rubber

Scientific calculator

Compass and protractor

Highlighter

Clear pencil case

### **How is the school supporting my child's wellbeing during the exams?**

Students will continue to meet with the tutor and pastoral teams daily providing support and guidance.

All procedures and access arrangements agreed following the mocks will be applied during the exam period. Subject leaders and teachers will be present prior to each exam to speak to students and answer any questions.

All students will be provided with a plastic water bottle to use during the exam period to support them remaining fully hydrated during the exams. Students should ensure that the water bottle is filled **prior** to the start of each exam briefing.

We will be providing breakfast items such as toast or a piece of fruit for students sitting morning exams from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May. Students should be encouraged to eat a healthy breakfast each morning to maintain energy levels during the exam period.

#### **Can students go home after an afternoon exam?**

Students will be able to leave the academy if their exam finished after 2.45pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday and 2.30pm on Wednesday. Students finishing their exam prior to this will be expected to return to their timetabled lesson.

#### **Will intervention be continuing during the exam period?**

Many interventions will continue during the exam period as a 'drop in'.

In addition to this we will be providing drop in sessions for all core subjects after school on the following dates:

##### **Maths**

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May 3.15 – 4pm

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 3.15 -4pm

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June 3.15 – 4pm

##### **English Language**

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 3.15 – 4pm

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June 3.15 – 4pm

##### **English Literature**

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 3.15 – 4pm

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 3.15 – 4pm

##### **Science**

##### **Biology**

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 3.15 – 4pm

##### **Chemistry**

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May 3.15 – 4pm

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June 8.25 – 10am - Students not completing the History exam

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June 11am – 12.30pm – Students that have completed the History exam.

##### **Physics**

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 3.15 – 4pm

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 8.25 – 10.30am – X band students

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 10.45 – 12.15pm – Y band students

#### **When is results day? What are the plans?**

GCSE and Level 2 Vocational Qualifications results day will be taking place on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August. Further details will be shared with students and parents later in the term.

#### **What should I do if my child is ill on the day of an exam?**

Please contact the school as soon as possible if your child has a significant illness that may result in them not being able to attend an examination.

Where possible, please seek medical advice from a doctor and ask them to provide written evidence of the illness. This can then be sent to the exam board to support any application for special consideration.

For absence related to Covid, please follow the latest government advice and again contact the school as soon as possible.

**What happens if my child is late for an exam?**

It is essential that students arrive by 8.25am each day. This will provide time for the students to check their seating arrangement and receive guidance prior to the exam.

Please be aware that exam boards will set a final entrance time for each exam. Any student arriving after this time will not be allowed to enter the exam room and will receive a mark of 0 for the paper. This may also result in a charge being applied for the cost of the exam.

**What happens if my child misses an exam?**

We are not able to re-sit any exam on an alternative date or time. Failure to attend an exam **without an appropriate medical reason** will result in a mark of 0 being awarded and may result in the exam board awarding a grade U overall.

Please be aware that failure to attend an exam without an appropriate reason will result in a charge for the cost of the exam being applied.

Please ensure that you contact Mrs Dixon ([Alexandria.dixon@arnoldhillacademy.co.uk](mailto:Alexandria.dixon@arnoldhillacademy.co.uk)) or the Exams Officer ([dawn.harrold@arnoldhillacademy.co.uk](mailto:dawn.harrold@arnoldhillacademy.co.uk)) as soon as possible if your child will not be attending an exam to discuss the reasons and actions required.

## Hints and tips for students

### **Before the exam**

#### Revise regularly

Do not leave all of your revision until the last minute. It is far better to revise for 30-40 minutes 5 times a week than 2 hours in one night.

Do not work late the night before, but do get up early to go through your final revision notes.

Revise right up to the point when you are told to come into the exam room, but please do not bring any revision materials into the exam room itself. Leave them in your bag outside.

#### Use a variety of resources.

Do not rely purely on the past papers provided by your teacher to support your revision. There is a wealth of resources available for your use in several different formats.

#### Sleep and relaxation time

It is important that you get plenty of sleep and have regular relaxation breaks during your revision. A good balance is the key!

### **On the day of the exam**

#### Be prepared!

Have pens and sharpened pencils at the ready. Do not use pens that leak or ones with broad tips. By the same measure, don't use untried new pens. They may let you down. Use a pen that you know is reliable.

#### Fuel and Water

Make sure you have eaten a healthy breakfast and have a filled water bottle ready to take into the exam room.

#### Write clearly!

You might fully understand what you need to do but unless you write clearly the examiner will never know! Anything the examiner cannot read he/she cannot mark. If you are a poor writer, please take the time to write neatly.

#### Read the questions

This is not wasted time. Read every question once to get a rough idea what it is about and then read it again from the beginning - slowly. It is a good idea to tick off each line, including information in diagrams. Do not start until you are sure you thoroughly understand what is asked. The questions are usually graduated with the easier ones at the start of the paper.

Work your way through the paper. If you find any question particularly formidable, do not carry on with it. Come back to it later. You will lose valuable time being bogged down with one question. Get some easy marks in the bag first.

Look at the number of marks that the question is worth, if you have only written one line for a 5- mark question you have probably missed something and made a mistake.

#### Use of Bold Print

This means that the question is not straight forward. Bold print is a cue to read the question again carefully, so you understand **exactly** what is asked.

#### Materials that you will need

Scientific Calculator –bring your own. We cannot explain how to use a calculator once you are in the exam room so make sure you know how to use it! These are available to buy through scopyay.

Compass and protractor – needed for constructions and bearings.

Pencil, ruler and rubber – these are all essential when drawing graphs and other diagrams.

Pen – be aware that this needs to have **black ink** and it is a good idea to have a spare just in case one runs out.

Highlighter – this can be useful for highlighting key words and phrases.

**After you have finished the exam**

Go through the paper quickly reading or scanning it to get an idea of what is asked.

When you have finished do not sit with your arms folded looking up at the ceiling! You will not have scored 100%! There are some marks still to be had. Spend every last minute going through the paper carefully looking for errors. Trust me. There will be some!

It only remains for us to say “good luck”, but exams have little to do with luck. If you have done the work and revised thoroughly, you will undoubtedly do well. The fact that you are reading this shows your intent. So, don't look at exams as impossible hurdles to jump. Look at them as opportunities for you to shine and show everyone just what you can do!