



NOWER HILL HIGH SCHOOL

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Ref: NH/NE

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Dear Parents/Carers

Year 8 End of Year Examinations

You will be aware from previous correspondence that we are currently preparing for significant changes to the way in which students are assessed in their GCSE and A level exams. One of the biggest changes is the move towards linear exams and the removal of coursework and controlled assessments from many (not all) subjects. This can put additional pressure on students if they are not used to preparing for terminal assessments.

We are supporting students in this transition by putting in place end of year exams in English, Mathematics and Science. The reasons for this are to help students:

- Improve their time management skills and organisation by mapping out revision time.
- Improve revision skills by having the opportunity to prepare for core subject assessments prior to Year 11.
- Improve resilience by understanding how to learn from errors and build upon success.

Year 8 core examinations will take place in lesson time during the period from 6th to the 10th June. Subject teachers will provide further guidance about the precise lesson in which the exam will take place and the content to be revised.

Please be aware that only revision homework will be set for students between 23rd May and 6th June to allow them time to prepare thoroughly.

It is understood that some students perform less well under exam pressure and consequently the outcomes of end of year exams will only be one factor in informing final tracking reports and any movement between sets in core subjects. Teachers will be taking into consideration performance across the whole of the year. It is however important to be alerted to students who struggle to achieve their potential in formal assessment conditions, in order that appropriate support can be put in place well in advance of their final GCSE exams.

Many thanks in advance for your support in preparing your son/daughter for these important examinations.

Yours faithfully

Neil Hardy
Deputy Headteacher
Teaching & Learning

