



Beths Grammar School

an 11 – 18 selective school with academy status

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17th October 2019

Dear Parents and Carers of boys in Year 11,

Year 11 Trial Exams

As mentioned in the letter sent to all parents at the beginning of September, all Year 11 boys will sit formal trial exams starting the week beginning **Monday 4th November**. **Please find the timetable attached to this letter.**

The purpose of these exams, like many aspects of school life, is to get students into good working habits as well as give them a feel for the actual exams they will complete in the summer of 2020. These trial exams will give the boys a chance to see what they can produce under timed conditions and give them the opportunity to assess areas of strength and areas for improvement to ensure they achieve the top grades. We welcome your support to help your son prepare a sensible and realistic revision timetable.

We have decided this year to split the trial exams over a period of two weeks. The first sitting exams will be all core subjects. This includes, Mathematics (3 separate papers), English Language, English Literature and the three science disciplines (Biology, Chemistry and Physics). These exams will take place in the Main School Hall.

The following week (week beginning 11th November) students will sit exams for their three options subjects. These will take place in normal classrooms during a normal timetabled double lesson. Teachers will inform the boys about the date and time of these exams.

I have taken into consideration the pressures that trial exams can bring and I am aware that sitting three trial exams in one day can be very demanding for students. Therefore, I have placed exams into both morning and afternoon sessions. I have asked staff to allow the boys periods 3 and 4 to complete silent independent revision for their exams. Whilst I am offering in total eight lessons for directed study it is the expectation that boys not only use these sessions to their advantage but also supplement this revision time with much more purposeful and rigorous revision at home and during the half-term break.

Strict exam procedures will be followed for all examinations. I must stress that boys should never bring a mobile phone into an exam. JCQ have also updated their procedures and as of this year any student caught talking whilst walking into the exam hall or during an exam will be disqualified. Students caught breaching these rules during the trial exams will be removed from the hall and will sit their trial exam in isolation at the end of the school day. We will alert parents on the day if this is the case. However for the real exams they will be disqualified with immediate effect and will not have the opportunity to sit the exam at a later stage.

Results will be published to parents through the first interim report which will be issued on **Friday 29th November**.

Sixth Form Information Evening

We will be holding a sixth form information evening for all of our internal year 11 students on **Thursday 14th November 2019 starting at 5pm**. There will be a presentation from senior staff regarding life in the sixth form here at Beths. They will use this opportunity to explain the entry requirements, subjects on offer as well as other important information regarding the application process. After the presentation in the main hall you and your son will then have the opportunity to visit the various departments around the school on that evening and meet with subject teachers who will be on hand to answer questions you or your son may have about studying that particular subject at A-Level. The following week will be our information evening for all external students who are currently studying for GCSEs in other schools but who wish to transfer to the sixth form at Beths for their post 16

study. This evening is extremely popular and very busy so we have decided to split the sixth form evening into two to allow our own internal students the opportunity to get the advice and attention that they deserve with this very important decision in their future education. I look forward to seeing you all Thursday 14th November.

Year 11 Russell Group Universities information evening - Wednesday 11th December at 6pm

Whilst you may think that applying to university is still a long way away, we are providing both boys and parents the opportunity to come into to school to discuss applying to Russell Group Universities. These are top universities in the UK that many of our students progress onto after A-Levels. For students who are interested in applying to university and indeed applying to Russell Group Universities this evening is intended to inform the boys of the application process but also help inspire and motivate them to realise that for a large number of courses it is not just performance at A-Level that counts but also performance at GCSE. Universities will look at GCSEs as well as A-Levels when offering places. Therefore it is better to inform them now so that they know what to work towards.

Careers and post 16 Advice

Whilst I am aware that most of our students will transfer into the sixth form here at Beths I am also aware that for a number of boys they simply do not know what they want to do. This is not uncommon of students this age. After half term we will have a careers advisor based in the Learning Resource Centre each Wednesday and boys who need guidance on what the next step in education and training could be for them can seek advice from her. Our careers advisor can also arrange for students to have an appointment with an independent careers adviser from Prospects who comes into school to speak with the boys. I want to make sure that by the end of year 11 every boy in the year group is confident that they are making the best decision for them for the next exciting stage in their education.

Students are able to research their options for post-16 education and training by accessing the Decisions Post-16 Directory 2020/21 online at www.bexley.gov.uk/decisionspost16 for details of Bexley provision.

General standards, conduct and attitude of students

Many of our boys have hit the ground running with year 11 and understand the importance and seriousness of the next 8 months. Can I please ask that you continue to reinforce the high expectations of the school with regards to behaviour, attitude, punctuality, attendance and the completion of detailed and quality homework and study. I would like to remind you again that we will continue to exclude students who disrupt the learning of others or who think it is acceptable to display anti-social behaviour around the school site at break, lunch and traveling to and from school.

Thank you for your support in these matters and I hope you all have a very pleasant half-term break.

Yours sincerely,



R. McBeth