



# Beths Grammar School

an 11 – 18 selective school with academy status

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Dear parents/carers,

Happy new year! Thank you for your continued support with year 13 students, particularly with your help surrounding University and apprenticeship applications. This is a challenging time of year for students and as we approach trial exams, we want to ensure that we are in touch with you so that students are supported by consistent messages from both school and home.

During this week's assembly, students were encouraged to think about what drives them, whether that is a career aspiration, a life goal or something else. Focusing on their longer-term goals can be an excellent motivator. Students were also reminded to look after themselves and keep a healthy balance between their studies and time to rest. We discussed anxiety as a normal human emotion, which can help us achieve well. Students have been encouraged to discuss any more challenging mental health concerns with trusted adults who will be able to offer strategies and support to help ease them through this important period.

I'd like to remind parents and carers that the trial exams are extremely close, the first day of the exam period is Mon 29<sup>th</sup> January. To ensure that the trial exams are a true representation of the actual exams, we will be applying official JCQ examination rules throughout the trial exam period. In summary, that means the following:

- No back-up papers. This means if you are absent, you will not be able to take the examination.
- No extra time given if you are late.
- Acts of defiance, such as incorrect uniform or not following instructions, will result in not being able to take the exam.
- Any form of cheating, such as notes, failure to hand in phones, writing on the hand etc. will result in expulsion from the hall and a zero on that paper, which, depending on the nature of the cheating, can result in a zero for all papers.

If a student is absent due to illness, a doctor's certificate is the only way that the student will be allowed another opportunity to take the assessment.

Once the students have taken their assessments, there are two extremely valuable outcomes to be aware of. Firstly, the feedback from their teachers. This feedback will allow each student to make further progress in each of their subjects before the final exams take place. Therefore, being present and punctual for all lessons for the rest of this academic year is exceptionally important. Secondly, their outcomes may help them to decide which university offers will match their outcomes on results day. The trial exam results will give students up to date information on their attainment allowing them to make informed decisions about which university place should be their firm choice, and which should be their insurance choice.

For further information about university offers and how to reply to them, please see the link below. [Deadlines for Accepting University Offers | UCAS](#)

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