



Headteacher: Mr T Burton, MA (Cantab)

9 June 2017

Millthorpe School
Nunthorpe Avenue
York YO23 1WF
01904 686400
admin@millthorpeschool.co.uk
www.millthorpeschool.co.uk

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 9 Exams - week beginning 19 June

If your Year 9 son/daughter has a younger brother or sister at Millthorpe, you will know that next Week is Year 7 and Year 8 Exam Week. Year 9 Exam Week is the following week (week beginning 19 June) and just like Year 7 and Year 8 Exam Week, the purpose of our Year 9 period is to support students in building their revision and exam skills in an incremental, age-appropriate way so that when they begin their GCSE preparation, they are used to reviewing and relearning work they did a long time ago and better able to cope with high-stakes assessment without becoming stressed or anxious.

You will be aware from our Year 9 Options process earlier this year, that your son/daughter will be taking the new linear GCSE exams in all subjects. This means that for the vast majority of subjects, coursework and controlled assessments have been replaced by additional or longer final GCSE exams at the end of Year 11. In some subjects, this represents a major change that has important implications for the way we teach, and assess, our students throughout their time at secondary school. For example, coursework used to account for 40% of the marks in GCSE English; 60% for French and German; 25% for History; and 25% for Science, but in all of these subjects, the final GCSE exam now accounts for 100% of the marks.

For this reason, we are using our Year 9 Exam Week to introduce Year 9 students to longer exams in the Main Hall, where each half year group (about a hundred students) sits their exam at the same time.

Students will take the following exams in the Main Hall:

English Language Reading

Monday 19 June period 4 Y9 North

Tuesday 20 June period 3 Y9 South

English Language Writing

Wednesday 21 June period 3 Y9 South

Friday 23 June period 3 Y9 North

Maths

Thursday 22 June period 2 Y9 North

Thursday 22 June period 3 Y9 South

Science

Tuesday 20 June period 2 Y9 North

Friday 23 June period 1 Y9 South

The size of these exams will mean that they feel more formal than exams sat in classrooms and it is helpful for students to get used to taking exams in this environment, before they begin their GCSE courses. English, Maths and Science teachers will go through Main Hall exam arrangements with their classes during Year 9 lessons next week so that students know exactly what to expect and these large exams run smoothly.

During Year 9 Exam Week, students will also take RE, History and Geography exams in their usual classrooms, during normal lesson times. RE and History teachers have already given students their exam times and Geography teachers will do this in their next Geography lesson. The Geography exam will be a practice for the new pre-released part of the Geography GCSE, where students are given some facts and data to analyse a short time before the exam itself. Due to timetable constraints, some RE exams will take place next week, ahead of the main Year 9 Exam Week; students taking exams next week have been aware of the 'early' date since before half term and should have already begun their revision.

German assessments will take place in the week beginning 26 June and French assessments in the week beginning 3 July. MFL teachers have already begun coaching students for these assessments but we would like Year 9 students to be able to stagger their revision; therefore students are not expected to begin revision for their MFL assessments until after their other Year 9 Exams.

Information about what and how to revise for each exam is on Show My Homework (SMHW). If any student needs replacement SMHW log-in details, these are available from Mr Hardy who can be contacted via the School Office or your child's form tutor.

If you have any questions or feedback about the Year 9 Exams, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tania Andrie', written in a cursive style.

Tania Andrie
Assistant Headteacher