



## School Bulletin for Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Parent Forum

Just a reminder that if you wish to attend, the next Forum meeting is on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January between 6-7pm. The focus will be on the GCSE 9-1 Levels and will be led by Mrs Allon (more details later in the Bulletin). We will also be discussing Key Stage 3 information for assessment shown on the website.

### Year 11 GCSE Art Exam

Questions for the GCSE Art exam were released to our Year 11 students on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January. Students will be using their class time from now until the date of the exam (27<sup>th</sup> March 2018) to prepare for the exam. As well as working on this in lessons, it is also very important that our Art students are completing independent preparation both at home and during OSL. Please see Show My Homework for more details on the tasks. All students are required to submit the preparation for their exams in a sketchbook that costs £5. Students need to purchase these from Main Reception. If there is a problem with providing the payment for the sketchbook, please do not hesitate to contact Miss McNelis [mcnelis.c@north.kent.sch.uk](mailto:mcnelis.c@north.kent.sch.uk)

### Extra Curricular Clubs

Details of all our clubs for this Term are now available on the school website. The Performing Arts afterschool clubs started back up this week. If students would like to know more about the afterschool extracurricular clubs in Performing Arts please see Miss Langston for more details.

### Books Going Home

Feedback from parents about students' progress evidenced in books is essential. The details for this term are as follows:

w/c	<b>15 Jan 2018</b>	Year 10 books home – both communities
w/c	<b>22 Jan 2018</b>	Year 7 books home – both communities

Parents are encouraged to discuss with their children the following issues:

- The quality and quantity of work completed by the student;
- The quality and the effectiveness of marking;
- The quality of student's responses to the teacher's feedback.

Students should bring feedback forms to their tutors.

### Maths Assessments

We have Maths assessments this term for Years 7-10. Revision lists will be sent via SchoolComms as usual. We encourage students to use Mymaths, Century Tech or revision workbooks to revise from. All students have a gap analysis from their last assessment, so they know the topics they need to prioritise.

Years 7-9 will complete their assessments in classrooms. Year 10 will take theirs in school Hall. Please ensure students come prepared with all their equipment.

Year 7: Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> or Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January (check with class teacher to find out which date yours is on).

Year 8: Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January.

Year 9: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January.

Year 10:

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January.

- Periods 1 & 2 – Essella band.
- Periods 3 & 4 – Mabledon band.

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January.

- Periods 1 & 2 – Mabledon band.
- Periods 5 & 6 – Essella band.

Remember the best way to revise Maths is to be doing questions! We wish our students all the best of luck.

### **Saturday School for Year 11s**

The first school takes place on 20<sup>th</sup> January and the timetable is as follows:

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>TIME:</b>	<b>LOCATION:</b>	<b>STAFF:</b>
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	Graphics & Resistant Materials	9.00am-1.00pm	EG1, EG2	CMC, MST
	Art	9.15am -10.45am	MF4	CCA
	PE (BTEC)	9.15am-12.30pm	PE	AJU, RMA
	Science	9.15am -12.30pm	Mabledon	All Science
	IT	9.15am -12.30pm	EF4	MWI
	Art	10.00am-12.30pm	MF1	EHO

### **Reformed GCSEs – A Parent’s Guide**

As you are probably aware the government has introduced radical new changes to the structure and assessment of GCSEs. The familiar system of A\*-G grades is being replaced with number grading, 1-9. Also, in addition to the changes to the structure of GCSEs, the Department of Education has re-defined a ‘standard pass’ to be a grade 4 (the equivalent to a C in the old GCSE grading system) and a ‘strong pass’ to be a grade 5 (the equivalent to a high C or low B).

Only reformed subjects will be available to start studying from 2018.

- Until 2020, pupils will receive a mixture of grades A\* to C and 9 to 1 grades for the legacy and reformed GCSE subjects.
- The timeline below shows the rollout of the delivery and examination of the reformed GCSE qualifications.

Start course in 2015	Start course in 2016	Start course in 2017	Start course in 2018
Exams in 2017	Exams in 2018	Exams in 2019	Exams in 2020
English language English literature Mathematics.	Art and design, biology, chemistry, citizenship studies (and short course), combined science, computer science, dance, drama, food preparation and nutrition, French, geography, German, classical Greek, history, Latin, music, physical education, physics, religious studies (including short course), and Spanish.	Ancient history, Arabic, astronomy, Bengali, business, Chinese, classical civilisation, design and technology, economics, electronics, engineering, film studies, geology, Italian, Japanese, media studies, modern Greek, modern Hebrew, Panjabi, physical education short course, Polish, psychology, Russian, sociology, statistics, and Urdu.	Gujarati, biblical Hebrew, Persian, Portuguese, and Turkish.

In reformed GCSEs, the 'lettered' A\*-G system is replaced with numbers, ranging from 9 to 1. 9 is the highest grade that candidates can achieve, and 1 is the lowest. In addition, GCSE content is becoming significantly more difficult over the coming years.

For new GCSEs a numbered system will now range from 9 (highest) to 1 (lowest). Here's a diagram of how the old scores compare to the newer ones:

9	A*
8	
7	A
6	B
5	C
4	
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

## **The main features of the new GCSEs are:**

- The new grading system help distinguish the new GCSEs from previous versions.
- Assessment to be mainly by exam, with other types of assessment used only where they are needed to test essential skills.
- There is new, more demanding content, which has been developed by government and the exam boards. Extended writing skills and advanced text comprehension are essential skills in new qualifications.
- Courses are designed for two years of study – they will no longer be divided into different modules and students will take all their exams in one period at the end of their course.
- Exams can only be split into 'foundation tier' and 'higher tier' if one exam paper does not give all students the opportunity to show their knowledge and abilities.
- Resit opportunities will only be available each November in English Language and Maths.

## **Sports Results**

### **Netball**

Results from the girls this week:

Year 7 beat Towers 10-2.

Year 8 beat Towers 15-4.

### **Basketball**

We beat ACS Egham away from home 86-79 in Overtime on Wednesday with Adam Wernham and Issy Solomon the game's top players.

### **Athletics**

Our Year 7 and 8's competed in a Sports Hall athletics event with the following results out of the schools from Ashford and Shepway:

- Year 7 Girls 4<sup>th</sup> Place.
- Year 7 Boys 4<sup>th</sup> Place.
- Year 8 Boys 7<sup>th</sup> Place.

Regards,

### **Grahame Ward**

School Business Manager

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