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20 December 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to inform you that trial examinations for Year 8 will take place during the week commencing Monday 21 January. The examinations will include Science, French, German, RS, History, and Geography. Students will be expected to follow formal examination rules. This means that no mobile phones or similar portable devices will be allowed in the exam hall. In doing so, we hope to instill good exam habits so that students will become more aware and comfortable with the expectations and protocol for future examinations. The English and Mathematics examinations will take place during the week commencing Monday 18 February.

We are encouraging all students to work hard in the build up to these examinations and to try their very best on the day. These examinations are just one of a number of indicators that allow us to track student performance and, although they are a valued method of assessing progress, we are equally keen for students to engage in the process of exam preparation and its importance, in order to be successful. Realising and appreciating the value of effective revision will put the students in a position of strength for the future. Students will be signposted to revision resources; most of which are on Google Classroom, and will also revisit prior learning in some lessons. To help students to further prepare, we have scheduled some revision workshops in January.

Please encourage your son/daughter to make full use of all the revision resources. Please also encourage your son/daughter to speak to their coach or subject teacher if they have any questions.

Thank you in anticipation of your support for your son/daughter during this period of exam preparation - we appreciate that this will seem stressful to some students. As mentioned above, at this stage in your son/daughter's education, we are aiming mainly to develop their revision skills and their appreciation of effective revision techniques through this process.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very enjoyable Christmas and a happy new year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anna Harrison". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Anna Harrison
KS3 Director of Learning
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