



Monday 24th May 2021

Dear Parents,

## Year 10 Practice Exams – June 2021

I am writing to you to inform you of the Year 10 Practice Exam season, beginning 14th June 2021. The normal school timetable will run during this period. Any students not sitting examinations will be in lessons. Students sitting their examinations will be in the school sports hall or allocated examination room under exam conditions. The examination timetable is attached and also available on our website.

Whilst we are yet to receive further guidance from the exam boards about any Covid-related concessions to be made in the final GCSE exam series in 2022, we have decided to continue with our practice exams as scheduled. This exam practice is important for many reasons:

- to ensure that our students are able to experience the rigour of an examination season
- to motivate and make sure that our students prepare appropriately for examinations
- to allow students who are eligible for exam concessions to learn how to use them effectively
- for teachers to act upon gaps in learning and misconceptions caused by the national lockdowns
- to give teachers and leaders robust data to be used in any potential Centre Assessed Grade scenario

In addition to the above, students of the **OCR Nationals in Sports Science** should understand that this examination will form part of the evidence used to grade them for what would have been this year's examined component. As all external exams have been cancelled this year, our PE teachers must submit a judgement of Year 10 students' performance in this unit. This is in line with the process currently being followed more widely with Year 11 students.

We acknowledge that this year has been a particularly stressful one for our Year 10s with the uncertainty caused by the pandemic, as well as the spells of remote learning. We would invite students to see this as an opportunity to establish what their current position is with regards to their own strengths and areas for development. We anticipate that this will, in many cases, offer some reassurance and boost confidence.

In June each student will receive a personalised examination timetable, a copy of the JCQ regulations, which state the conditions under which external examinations are held, and an equipment list. A copy of these regulations and the equipment list can be found on our website under Parent Information, Examination Information.

If we have students who are self-isolating during this examination period, alternative arrangements will be made for them to sit the papers which may include them being completed at home. If this is necessary, further instructions and information will be given.

You will already be aware that fewer and fewer subjects have a large coursework element and that there is an ever-increasing importance bestowed upon final examinations. We cannot stress enough, therefore, how important these practice exams are and how seriously they should be taken. We do, however, acknowledge how important it is for you and your families to be able to relax and rest over half term in order to be ready for the final weeks of the school year.

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Please also be aware that we will be doing everything we can to support your son/daughter through these exams whilst also ensuring their engagement. If you have any concerns about anxiety or motivation levels, please do not hesitate to contact us.

If you have any other queries regarding the Practice Exams please contact me via the school office or at [enquiries@tarletonacademy.org](mailto:enquiries@tarletonacademy.org)

Yours sincerely,

**T McLardy**

Mr T McLardy  
Assistant Headteacher – Curriculum and Assessment