

WEST HILL SCHOOL

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February 2015

Dear Parent,

Your son's remaining time at West Hill is rapidly coming to a close and very soon he will be involved in completing his external GCSE examinations. In preparation for these important exams, your son should be completing homework and revision each evening. We strongly recommend that at least 90 minutes each evening is given to revision. To help him know how to revise, sessions will be taking place in morning registration after February half term. Subject teachers are also providing after school sessions and details of these can be found on the school website calendar:

<http://www.westhillschool.co.uk/School-Calendar>

Whilst the main body of written examinations begin on Tuesday May 5th, just ten school weeks away, please be aware that practical examinations in Art and PE will be taking place this term.

The **Art Exam** days will take place on March 25th and 26th. Pupils will attend a three hour session on one of the two days. The date of the **PE Practical Exam** is likely to be the week beginning March 30th.

Details of the full examination timetable can again be found on the website examinations area:

<http://www.westhillschool.co.uk/Timetables>

Following a review of the Year 11 Curriculum, the following decisions have been taken:

English Language IGCSE Examination

A decision has been taken to enter all boys for the Cambridge IGCSE examination in English Language. This examination is felt to be better suited to our boys. The qualification has a coursework component of 60%. Over the next four weeks your son will be redrafting and improving his coursework and completing a Speaking and Listening Assessment in the hope of achieving the highest grade possible. Both these elements can be worked on at home and we would appreciate you supporting your son in completing them. Please see the attached information sheet on the Speaking and Listening component.

The English Department will be offering an English Support session on Monday 16th February (9.00am-1.00pm) during the half term holiday to any pupil wanting extra support with his coursework or the Speaking and Listening presentation. Please sign up with Mrs Parkes prior to the half term break.

A full two hour mock examination in English will take place for all Y11 pupils at 9.00am on Friday 20th March. Please support us by encouraging your son to prepare thoroughly for this exam.



RE

In previous years many boys have been entered for the **RE Short Course examination** which awards each candidate half a GCSE. As part of our curriculum review, and considering the views of our boys, we have determined that it is not in the interests of the majority of our boys to sit this examination. The time that had been allocated to RE is now supervised study time where boys can work independently preparing for, and revising, other subjects. All boys will still receive at least eight Level 2 qualifications, in most cases this will be ten qualifications.

Post 16 Provision

Most boys have now applied for and chosen their post 16 pathway. For boys interested in pursuing an apprenticeship, vacancies are advertised on the school website and the latest news can be found at:

<http://www.westhillschool.co.uk/Latest-Apprenticeships-for-2015>

This is becoming an increasingly popular route and it is important that boys apply sooner rather than later. Mr Musiol, the school's IAG Advisor is available should boys wish to arrange an appointment.

Year 11 Leaving Dinner

Many boys in Year 11 have asked us to consider hosting a celebratory dinner upon the conclusion of their GCSE examinations. Although plans have not yet been finalised, the dinner is likely to be held the week beginning 15th June. The cost will be approximately £35 to include; transport to and from the venue, food, and entertainment. Final details will be sent out at a later date.

Advance Notice of Important Dates

Exam Results will be available at school on Thursday, 20th August, 2015.

Presentation Evening to celebrate the achievements of the Class of 2015 will be held on Thursday 19th November, at Dukinfield Town Hall.

Information is regularly communicated to parents via our twitter account. If you have not yet signed up, please do so at Twitter: @westhillschool.

Yours Faithfully

Mrs G Wood

Mr G Peacock

Deputy Headteacher

Head of Year 11





National Standard
for Enterprise Education



Specialist Schools and Academies Trust
Cultural Diversity
Quality Standard