



Kingsmead School



A PARTNER ACADEMY IN JOHN TAYLOR MAT
Headteacher: Mrs M Mincher, Bsc, NPQH

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Letter ref: Y11TE2/25
29th January 2025

YEAR 11 – MARCH TRIAL EXAMINATIONS ARRANGEMENTS

Dear Parent/Carer,

This letter is to inform you of the arrangements for the upcoming trial examination season, which will commence from Monday, 3rd March and will run until Friday, 7th March.

Exam Arrangements

Students will sit two exams on most days – one in the morning (AM) and a second in the afternoon (PM). The first exam session each day will start at 9am. Where a second exam is scheduled, this will start from 2pm on Monday (3rd), and 1:30pm from Tuesday (4th) to Friday (7th). These start times will allow students to attend 30-minute revision sessions with their class, or subject, teachers before morning exams, as well as hour-long revision sessions before afternoon exams. **For their AM exams, students should arrive at school for 8:10, to attend their 30-minute ‘Breakfast Revision’ session.** These are incredibly important, as they are a last opportunity for class teachers to remind students of the tips and tricks they will need to use in their exam. Research shows that students perform better in exams when they eat and drink something beforehand. **Therefore, every morning, students should collect a free breakfast** from the House of Pi at 8:10, before going straight to the ‘Breakfast Revision’ session specified on their revision timetable. At 8:45, your child will then be led to their exam venue by teachers, so they are ready to start at 9am. Once students have finished their AM exam, they will return to their timetabled lessons in the main school building. Students will still be able to access the House of Pi and Glasshouse during the breaks between the exam sessions.

We have also arranged revision sessions before PM exams. These will usually take place during the first fifty-minutes of period 4. Students will then have a 25-minute window in which to buy lunch in school or eat any food they have brought with them. We strongly recommend that students eat something before any PM exam. At 1.15pm, during their lunch break, students will be directed to the venue of their second exam. **The second exam session may run until 3:30pm each day, so period 6s will not take place. At the end of their afternoon exam, students will be dismissed from the venue and told to go straight home to continue with their revision for the next day, independently.** To support them with this, their teachers will set appropriate revision activities for them to complete at home, via Satchel One and the other platforms which we use.

Individual exam and revision timetables will be issued to students in February. If students want to check when their option exams are, they can do this by referring to the schedule below and identifying which letter (A, B, C or D) is in the subject’s class code. The exam for that subject will take place in the corresponding block session.

Monday 3 rd March		Tues 4 th March		Wednesday 5 th March		Thursday 6 th March		Friday 7 th March	
P1/2	P5/6	P1/2	P5/6	P1/2	P5/6	P1/2	P5/6	P1/2	P5/6
English Lit’	Science Biology	Maths	Block C	English Lang’	Block A	Science Chem	Block D	Science Physics	Block B

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Not all subjects have a scheduled trial exam. **Some BTEC subjects will instead have a ‘drop-down’ session**, where they will receive intensive support from subject specialists. The details of these arrangements will be included in the students’ individual timetables.

Expectations of Students

- Even though students will be sitting their exams during the week, Kingsmead School’s expectations remain the same:
- **Students must wear their full school uniform at all times during the trial exam season**
- **Students should arrive at school for no later than 8:10am – this is so they can claim a free breakfast and attend a revision session before the start of their morning exam.**
- **Students should go to the toilet before each exam and they should allow time in their journeys and preparation to do this**
- **Students must bring all of the equipment they will need to each exam – you can find more information in the school’s **Student Guide to Exams**, which is available [here](#)**
- **Students should also familiarise themselves with the JCQ Information for Candidates documents – which are available [here](#)**
- After they have been dismissed from school, **students will be expected to leave the school site and revise independently at home**
- **Y11 students will return to lessons from Monday, 10th March**

As with the December exams, **students will sit the March trial exams under formal examination conditions, in the school’s Sports Hall and our other designated examination venues.** Conducting the examinations in the school’s designated venues and under examination conditions is an important part of our strategy for preparing the students for their exams in the summer. We have taken this decision because we want the students to have the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the organisation of the exams in school and the regulations governing their conduct, which they will need to follow in the summer.

How Can you Help? The Importance of Independent Revision

It is important that your child continues to revise independently at home throughout their remaining time in Year 11. As parents, you have an important role to play in encouraging and supporting them as they do this. Your child can revise in many ways. Firstly, they will continue to have access to all the resources in school e.g. flash cards and past papers. They should already be revising independently using any texts books, revision guides or any electronic resources that they have been provided with. Class teachers will also set appropriate revision activities for them to complete at home, via Satchel One, Seneca and the Blended Learning Platform.

The Impact of Attendance on Outcomes

In 2024, students with 96% attendance or better achieved an average GCSE grade of a 6! One whole grade higher than the national average and the average for other Kingsmead students with attendance of 95% or below. Students with expected attendance are also twice as likely to achieve grades 4 or 5 in both English and Maths, than students with below expected attendance.

Summer Exams

As in previous years, JCQ and the exam boards have added a ‘contingency day’ date to the exam calendar in case of major national or local disruption to exams. Exams may be moved to this date if required. The date that has been designated is Wednesday, 25th June 2025 which will be after the end of the scheduled GCSE exams. Please be aware that if the contingency date is used, your child may have one or two exams

moved to this day and therefore care should be taken before making arrangements, such as booking holidays, on this date.

For questions about the trial exam arrangements, please contact Miss. N. Harding (examqueries@kingsmeadschool.net). If you have any subject specific questions, please contact the class teacher. For general queries, please contact Miss. C. Hinton.

Yours faithfully,



Miss. C. Hinton
Year 11 Progress Leader



Mr. B. Morris
Assistant Head &
Data Manager



Miss. N. Harding
Examination Officer