



NOWER HILL HIGH SCHOOL

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Headteacher:
Chris Livesey BA (Hons)

Dear Parents/Carers

Year 9 End of Year Examinations

You will be aware from previous correspondence that we are currently preparing for significant changes to the way in which students are assessed in their GCSE and A level exams. One of the biggest changes is the move towards linear exams and the removal of coursework and controlled assessments from many (not all) subjects. This can put additional pressure on students if they are not used to preparing for terminal assessments.

We are supporting students in this transition by putting in place end of year exams in the majority of Year 9 subjects. The reasons for this are to help students:

- Improve their time management skills and organisation by mapping out revision time.
- Improve revision skills by having the opportunity to prepare for a large number of subject assessments prior to Year 11.
- Improve resilience by understanding how to learn from errors and build upon success.

Year 9 examinations will take place in lesson time during the period from **25th April to 6th May**. There are a small number of subjects for which there will not be an exam during the stated period. These exceptions are detailed below:

- Citizenship
- Core PRE
- Drama (preparation for a devised piece throughout the summer term, assessed in July).
- Music Technology (mock portfolio completed throughout the summer term in lessons).

In all other subjects, class teachers will inform students when their in-class examinations will take place.

Please be aware that only revision homework will be set for students between 11th April and 6th May to allow them time to prepare thoroughly.

It is understood that some students perform less well under exam pressure and consequently the outcomes of the end of year exams will only be one factor in informing final tracking reports and any movement between sets in core subjects. Teachers will be taking into consideration performance across the whole of the year. It is however important to be alerted to students who struggle to achieve their potential in formal assessment conditions, in order that appropriate support can be put in place well in advance of their final GCSE exams.

Many thanks in advance for your support in preparing your son/daughter for these important examinations.

Yours faithfully

Neil Hardy
Assistant Headteacher
Teaching and Learning

