

Tuesday 1st May 2018

Dear Parent/ Carer,

GCSE examinations start

The exam season has started at Compass and will be well under way in two weeks' time. We want to make this period as supportive as possible for your child and ensure you are both well informed about what the coming weeks will involve. In addition, teachers, Heads of House and mentors are available for your child if they need someone to talk to or advice. Parents are more than welcome to get in touch if there is anything more we can do or even if you just want to talk to someone about the exams or supporting your child.

As you know this is an important time in your child's career so please read this letter carefully and make sure you have the exam timetable, attached, somewhere close to hand and easy to refer to (fridge door?). Also, be aware of the intervention programme also attached, and ensure your child makes the most of these opportunities.

Supporting your child with the final push

There are many things we are doing in school to support you child all the way up to their GCSEs. There are daily interventions with English and Science running 'grab a grade' weeks this week and next. There are half term master classes (time table to follow soon). Saturday morning classes are continuing to run as well as the 'excel in exam' sessions.

Before each exam in the morning there will be a booster breakfast session with food, drink and last minute tips and hints from their teachers. Lessons will be swapped so your child is revising in class with their teacher immediately before their exam. There are online resources show my homework, GCSE pod, Tassoumai, Mr Gruff and many more to access at home, on the bus or out and about.

How you can help

You can help my making sure your child is in school and attends all of the extra sessions available. Use the online resources; BBC bitesize is amazing. It is not too late.

There will be a **Parents drop in on Wednesday 9th May from 4:30 – 6:00** when you can come to the library and ask any questions and find out further support.

This web site is great for suggestions of dos and don'ts: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/zw8qpbk#zy4wh39>

Results day

GCSE exam results will be published on **Thursday 23rd August 2018**. To receive the results

- Your child needs to come into school on **Thursday 23rd August between 10:00 and 12:00 to collect them in person.**
- If your child is not able to pick results up they can leave an addressed envelope at the office before the 23rd August and the results will be posted to this address.
- Another person can only pick up your child's results if we have signed, written permission from you and the name of who will be collecting the results.

- All financial accounts (sQuid payments for dinner money, trips etc) must be settled with the school before results are released.

Important rules you need to know

It is important you fully understand the rules of GCSEs which I have outlined below. They may sound alarming, but it is important that you and your child understand these.

I have bullet pointed the key points below for clarity.

1. **If your child misses an exam through appointment, illness, accident, traffic etc THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RE-SIT THE PAPER LATER. This is it!**
In the case of Maths and English they will be able to re-sit at college or whilst on their apprenticeship at the earliest in November. All other exams would require your child to be re-entered for next year through another school or college, this is not likely to happen.
2. **Make sure your child is on time.** It will be stressful for them to start the exam once everyone else has. But if your child is late **we must warn the candidate that the awarding body may not accept their script.**
3. **Your child must turn up for the exam.** If your child does not turn up and there is not sufficient evidence to suggest there is a good reason, then you will be charged for the exam; in most cases around £35. We will withhold your child's results until we receive payment. All schools do this, not because they want your child to miss the exam but to emphasize how important it is they turn up.
4. Your child will be disqualified from exams and GCSEs if they do not follow the exam rules. Please emphasize the importance of following the rules.

If anything happens to jeopardize your child's attendance at an exam **RING THE SCHOOL STRAIGHT AWAY.** We will do our best to help you.

The Prom

Part of the rite of passage for Year 11 students is also attending the Prom. This is a special and moving event and a chance to see your child and their friends in their finest, relaxed and looking their best. It's a great evening and will take place on the 6th July at The Clarendon Hotel, Blackheath, SE3 0RW.

You will have an opportunity to drop your child off and take photos from 7pm at the venue. Transport from Compass School will be leaving at 6:15pm. Attendance at the prom is not automatic and will depend on your child's behaviour and attendance, particularly during the exams period.

Please expect a letter home soon about tickets and with a more detailed outline of the plans.

Yours sincerely,
Ms Kennedy
Director of Learning