

Year 10 Frequently Asked Questions

What we as parents can do to help children catch up if they have to miss school due to Covid related symptoms or other illness

Ensure that your child is engaging with the work set on Google Classroom - all teachers will be putting lessons onto Google Classroom for catch up work

Given the high risk of another lockdown or at least some period(s) of isolation, I am keen to understand what plans have been put in place to teach remotely.

Guidance will be communicated in the newsletter so that parents are kept informed of protocols.

Would it be possible to have a copy of the syllabus for each subject and the sequence the topics will be covered in at school so that we can target any additional background learning/reading around the subjects at the right time?

At the moment, our website contains full syllabus content for all of our GCSE specs. This includes key unit content and exam breakdown. In addition to this, each GCSE class will have a fully populated Google Classroom on a lesson by lesson basis. This therefore enables students and parents to see what is being covered in class so that catch up/revision can be made possible.

If they miss lessons is there going to be a resource that they go to so that they can catch up easily?

All work is being put onto each subject Google Classroom so that pupils can catch up on any work they miss should they be off for any reason.

At the Options' Evening in Year 9, there was talk amongst the maths' teachers of Further Maths possibly being offered as an additional GCSE option. Do you know if this will happen?

Further Maths Level 2 will be taught in Year 11 to the top set classes. We will make a selection later in the year of students who we think can access the course and take the extra qualification.

All of our set 1 students will have the opportunity to take Further Maths providing they are making good progress in their Maths GCSE.

With the PE GCSE, when do the students have to choose their 3 sports by? Also, is it better to choose a sport that you might play at a higher level than another sport, (i.e. that you play at club or district level, for eg., rather than just recreationally); or does the participation level not influence the maximum number of marks that you can achieve in that sport as long as you can show evidence of having mastered the requisite skills etc.?

We normally submit our marks for the practical activities by February half term of year 11. Whilst the chosen activities are flexible right up until that time, it makes sense to have chosen your activities early rather than later in order to try and focus on those sports and improve their skills. As students will be assessed on their skills and performance within a competitive / formal setting, it is strongly advisable they are regularly participating in that activity.

Could we have some clarification about how the assessment of the practical elements of the PE GCSE works?

Under 'normal' assessment circumstances, students will be expected to: 1. perform their activity's skills/techniques (as described in the content/skills section of the assessment grid) in

isolation/unopposed situations. This is assessed out of 10 marks. 2. apply their activity's skills/techniques in controlled practices and a conditioned/formal/competitive situation with the motivation to win the game/competition/complete a performance . This is assessed out of 25 marks. (For this year 11 cohort different procedures have been put in place0.

PE: the climbing training and netball club that Sophie was supposed to be doing, have both not reopened yet and i'm wondering what implications this will have for the course?

Netball, along with other activities which HCCS can offer on site, will be assessed in lessons and in extra curricular clubs. Other activities, including rock climbing will need video evidence. At present, some activities are not possible due to restrictions. If this remains the case, unfortunately, no assessment will take place and therefore a student would need to choose an alternative activity.

At what point will the students receive official predicted grades?

Pupils will receive most likely grades as part of our normal review process.

Will they take 'mock' exams and if so, when will these be?

There is a Year 10 exam week in the school calendar for the week commencing 14th June 2021. Whilst we will do everything we can to plan for this to take place, there are inevitable uncertainties around this and we will communicate with you nearer the time.

Will the teachers they have now remain with them throughout the course?

Where possible, the teacher they have now is the teacher they will have through year 10 and in year 11 as well. The circumstances where this is not possible are when staff leave at the end of the school year. We do everything we can to try to ensure continuity of curriculum at GCSE and A Level.

What processes will be in place to help a student measure their performance in a subject to know if they're developing their knowledge and performing to the level at which they'll need to pass their GCSE?

Pupils are regularly engaging in recall activities and low stakes testing within class. This therefore helps them to establish what they know, and what they need to revise to further develop their knowledge. Pupils also received regular feedback (every eight lessons) in line with the school marking policy. Pupils should ensure that they are responding to this feedback in purple pen to further push and challenge themselves across all subjects.

How frequently and to what extent will we as parents be informed of the above performance?

The interim reports are not sufficiently detailed to know specific areas of weakness that may need to be addressed.

Interims will continue to be issued throughout the year. For dates, please see the video which outlines the key dates for these. We also actively encourage parents to engage with the learning dialogue - looking in pupils books to see what they are studying and see the feedback they've been given will help to give an idea of progress across all subjects.

What plans are in place (if any) to provide my child with ideas/options/criteria/etc to consider which career they would like to embark on when leaving school, so that they can discuss which subjects/exams to take in preparation for this.

Historically, this has something we have always offered year 11 pupils. However, we do currently have plans to launch this in year 10 this year and we will prioritise students who we feel will benefit the most from having these conversations. We will keep you informed of this process.

I would like to know, whether, under the current circumstances and restriction there will be lunchtime/evening sessions in the subject areas of Maths and English as there traditionally have been during the school year ?

Given the current restrictions, it is likely that such interventions will be focused on Year 11. However, teaching staff are always available to support with specific issues at lunchtimes.

How much work have they missed in Year 9 due to lockdown, in particular for core subjects? What plans are in place for the students to catch up on the teaching they have missed?

All work during lock down would have made sure that pupils were kept up to date with their work. This, in addition to the live lessons they had means that pupils did not fall behind with their learning. We have been in regular contact with the parents of students who have fallen behind so that we can plan to support them in getting caught up.

Will they be given advice on how to revise including how to make effective revision plans and revision notes?

Pupils will be given the opportunity to plan out revision and consider how to revise through tutor time activities in both years 10 and 11.

When will they receive their exam timetable?

This will be in Year 11 a few months before the exam

Work experience: will students be able to do some work experience in year 10? Is this organised by the school? When does it take place? If it is planned for year 10, are there any contingency plans for the work experience if it's affected by Covid?

There won't be a traditional work experience but we are considering doing a 'virtual' experience which might take place over a number of Curriculum Enhancement mornings or tutor times. There definitely will not be a week in July as normal.

How will we receive feedback on progress, if my son is falling behind or you think that he is not challenging/ applying himself enough then I would like to be told sooner rather than later.

This will be reported via interim reports and by individual teacher comment and feedback.

How much homework will be set each week - should we be expecting them to have homework for every subject each week.

For a breakdown of the school homework policy please see the website for details:

https://b4bdd845-5112-45fd-84b0-34412699938a.filesusr.com/ugd/0e64df_ead2393c85d147259b3059e4a37895e4.pdf

How much homework should they be doing each night - 1 hour, 2 hours etc?

Our recommendation for Year 10 students at this stage of their GCSE course is that they complete between 1.5-2hrs of homework per night. This should consist of homework, revision and reviews tasks.

Please could you recommend the revision books appropriate for the exam boards for all subjects:

Please see the list below for a list of recommended revision guides from teachers

Science: CGP AQA 9-1.

Languages: Pearson's AQA revision workbook and Grammar and Translation workbook

Maths: Any AQA revision guide will be beneficial - CGP books and a pack of revision cards (This link is really good to advise parents about which Maths revision guide to get

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/mathematics/gcse-maths-textbooks>)

Technology: GCSE AQA DT

Geography: AQA GCSE (9-1) Geography Hodder

Drama: CPG GCSE Drama 9-1 Revision Guide. Available on Amazon.

GCSE Business: CGP GCSE Business Revision and Practice (£10.99).

Cambridge National in Enterprise and Marketing; Hodder Education- My Revision Notes: Cambridge National Level 1/2 Enterprise and Marketing £9.99

RS revision guide for GCSE

https://www.amazon.co.uk/AQA-GCSE-Religious-Studies-Christianity/dp/0198422830/ref=asc_df_0198422830/?tag=googshopuk-21&linkCode=df0&hvadid=310551242326&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrnd=11130180549318933444&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=1006904&hvtargid=pla-574124614257&psc=1&th=1&psc=1

What financial contribution is required for DT? Do school provide the materials and parents pay or will parents be asked to source materials etc for the GCSE and practice practicals.

Yr10 - we supply the materials and ask for a contribution when the work is finished.

Yr11 - they buy the materials ideally through school as we can get it cheaper.

Food tech - students bring in their own ingredients.

Will there be an opportunity to speak with teachers, perhaps via zoom or similar technology?

There will be a virtual parents evening held on 28th January. Further details will follow in due course.

Can all lessons please be added to the google classrooms so that anything that is unclear to students during lessons can be revisited/clarified at home?

Yes all lessons should be being added to the Google Classroom so that pupils can catch up with work at home should this be required

Are there any proposed changes to the GCSE syllabus for this year group?

No - there are no proposed changes for this year group.