

head'sherald

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VOLUME 15 DATE 6TH JANUARY 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year again. As you are aware I sent you a letter on Tuesday outlining that we are having a Behaviour and Attitudes focus this Term as some of our young people have forgotten the importance of our High Standards. It is always good to go back to our foundations to ensure we all have the correct understanding of what is expected. There is no new information that will be shared, but there will be a lot of work done around the understanding of why we do what we do. Your support is always very much appreciated.

All students must attend school in full school uniform with the correct footwear. Students also must bring with them a school bag, their ISP, a fully stocked pencil case, a calculator and a reading book. This is nothing new in terms of expectations, but it is imperative that this basic equipment is correct every day and the standards will be more formally checked to ensure that these standards remain high.

Any non-uniform item will be confiscated. An outdoor coat worn over the blazer is permitted, but will need to be removed when in the building. A dark colour is preferred but is not essential as we appreciate the student may wear the coat for other occasions and not just school.

If a student wears false or gel nails, false eyelashes, or have any visible piercings then they will be isolated until this can be rectified. Plasters are not acceptable to cover the piercings and will not be permitted. This information has not changed and is very clear in the 2022-2023 School Handbook, which is online. This was quite an issue on our return on Wednesday but yesterday this issue had dramatically improved.

I know that some of you were worrying about students being able to go the toilet during the school day. Students can freely go to the toilet during registration if needed and the toilets are open all break and all lunchtime. We have also ensured they are open between Period 1 & 2 and Period 3 & 4. If a child really needs to go in a lesson, then they need to ask their teacher and then Patrol will come and get them. However, due to the toilets being so readily available we do not think that the disruption to learning will be necessary for the majority of our young people. We of course appreciate that there are certain occasions when a student will need to the toilet even when they may have utilised them at the given times. We do try and explain to the young people that teachers can not just leave a lesson if they need the toilet and have to plan going to the toilet where possible and that we expect students to do the same. If a student has a medical condition, then please let us have the medical information from the GP or professional body and we can sort them out with a pass, which will allow them to go whenever necessary.

High Expectations. High Aspirations, High Standards - we will succeed"

Assessment and Curriculum

Year 11 Mock Exams and Parents' Evening

Year 11 teachers have been doing a very good job of not telling students their Mock Exam grades in advance of the formal Mock Results assembly on **Friday 6th January**. This will take place during period 5 in the school hall.

We will be emailing a copy of your child's mock results on the afternoon of Friday 6th January in advance of **Year 11 Parents' evening**. This evening will be held in school on **Monday 9th January**, where you will be able to discuss the results with subject teachers. **Booking for this parents' evening can still be made so please do so as soon as possible if you have not already done so.** This is perhaps the **most important Parents' evening of a child's secondary education**. From Monday, Year 11 students will only have 14 school weeks left until the GCSE exams begin.

January 2023 GCSE/ BTEC exams start on Monday 9th January 2023. Please see attached timetable. Students have been informed if they are taking any of these exams. Students must arrive on time and have the correct school equipment for their exam.

JANUARY 2023 EXAMS

WEEK	Date	Morning 9am	Break 10.55am	Morning 11.15am	Afternoon 12.15pm	Lunch 1.15pm
2	Mon 9 Jan				1PM START GCSE Creative i-media (1 hour 15)	
	Tues 10 Jan					
	Weds 11 Jan					
	Thurs 12 Jan	BTEC Music Unit 1 (1 Hour)				
	Fri 13 Jan	BTEC Travel & Tourism Unit 1 (1 hour 15)				

WEEK	Date	Morning 9am	Break 10.55am	Morning 11.15am	Morning 12.15pm	Lunch 1.15pm
1	Mon 16 Jan			OPTION C BTEC SPORT ONLINE EXAM 1 hour 15		
	Tues 17 Jan					
	Weds 18 Jan					
	Thurs 19 Jan			OPTION D BTEC SPORT ONLINE EXAMS 1 hour 15		
	Fri 20 Jan			OPTION B BTEC SPORT ONLINE EXAMS 1 hour 15		

WEEK	Date	Morning 9am	Break 10.55am	Morning 11.15am	Lunch 12.15pm	Afternoon 1pm
1	Tues 31 Jan					1pm START BTEC Enterprise (2 hours)

Year 11 Period 6

Period 6 sessions started on the first day back after the Christmas break. I would like to congratulate Year 11 with their engagement and efforts in this extended curriculum time. All students have been issued with a hard copy of what sessions take place each afternoon. As Mr Koltan has informed you previously, the Period 6 sessions allows 40% more curriculum

time which really does make a difference to the final grades that students achieve in the summer exams.

Maths and Science Knowledge Organisers and Retrievers and Year 10 WA1

Before the Christmas break, all students in **Year 10** were issued with Maths and Science Knowledge Organisers and Knowledge Retrievers. The purpose of issuing students with these quality resources is to help support students with their revision at home. These resources cost **£30** for the set and will be issued to all our students free of charge. I would be grateful for your support in making sure these resources are well used at home. **For Year 10 students, the Knowledge Organiser and Retriever** should be used most evenings in the build-up and during the Working At (WA1) assessment window which will run from **Monday 9th January - Friday 20th January**. Students will be assessed on all the content that has been taught from starting their GCSE courses since September. For BTEC subjects, a grade will be awarded based on the quality of coursework/assessments that have been completed to date. The result of these assessments will be emailed out to parents on **Friday 3rd February**.

Attendance

Although there has been a significant amount of sickness around, please can we ask that you monitor your child's attendance on the Arbor App. Our school's attendance target is 96% or above and we aspire for our students to achieve this.

If your child's attendance is 90% for example this means they are absent from lessons for the equivalent of half a day a week. Over the five years at Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School this is the equivalent to half of a school year. As a result, this inevitably can lead to lower outcomes for your child in their examinations. We want all our young people to achieve their full potential and to be the best they can be.

Before the Christmas break we set our students a challenge. All students exceeding the school attendance target of 96% between the 14th November and the 16th December were entered. We do understand about illness and sickness and we set our attendance challenges as appropriate. However, we should all aspire to 96% attendance.

Personal Development

Numerous students in Year 10 will be working on a careers programme with Higher Horizons and Chester University over the course of this half term.

Year 10 Historians will be visiting Chester University next Wednesday to learn about University life and will complete History workshops.

With very best wishes



Beverley Scott –Herron
Headteacher