22 October 2014

Dear Parents / Caregivers

All students in year 10 will be sitting end of year exams in English, Social Studies, Mathematics and Science. The exams will be on two separate dates:

- Thursday 6 November – English, Social Studies
- Thursday 4 December – Mathematics, Science

The timetable for these days is as follows.

Thursday 6 November	Thursday 4 December
9.00 – 10.00 – English exam	9.00 – 10.00 – Mathematics exam
10.00 – 10.30 - Break	10.00 – 10.30 - Break
10.30 – 12.00 - Social Studies exam	10.30 – 11.30 - Science exam
12.00 – 1.20 - Lunch	11.30 – 12.20 – Normal period 3 class
	12.20 – 1.20 - Lunch
1.20 – 2.20 - Normal period 4 class	1.20 – 2.20 - Normal period 4 class
2.20 – 3.20 - Normal period 5 class	2.20 – 3.20 - Normal period 5 class

On the following page I have included some information on:

- the content of each exam,
- some information on how and what to study for each subject.

This will hopefully build on the work done through the Junior Certificate of Learning Skills and help your student as they prepare for the increased workload in higher years.

You will receive results from these examinations on the portal and at junior prizegiving on Thursday 11 December.

Good luck! Regards,

Dominic Killalea

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General Instructions / exam formats

All examinations will take place in the Riley Centre at the times stated above.

English
The English exam is 1 hour.
Students will be required to write an essay about a text. There will be two options.
Option 1: Students can revise a film, novel, short story, play or poem that they have studied in class.
Option 2: Students can write a response to a short text which will be provided in the exam.

Mathematics
The exam is 1 hour and will be appropriate to the student's chosen Mathematics course in 2015. Please note – phones, ipads etc are NOT ALLOWED as calculators.
MAA112: These students will do an algebra exam. It will involve knowing algebra techniques and using them to solve problems in context. It will be a **non-calculator** paper and will be practice for the external 1.2 MCAT which these students will sit next year.
MAS112: These students will sit a problem solving Number activity. **Students will need a calculator**. The exam is designed to test a student's ability to use their number skills to solve a real-life problem. This will be practice for 1.1 Number which is the first internal assessment these students will take next year.
NUM111 and **ATM112** (Arotahi): These students will sit a number exam. It will involve basic number operations on integers, fractions, decimals and percentages and the ability to solve straightforward word problems. **Students will need a calculator**.

Science
The Science exam is 1 hour. It will focus on skills learned during years 9 and 10 eg Planning fair tests, processing data (tabulation and graphing), interpreting data and simple chemical formulae.

Social Studies
The Social Studies exam is 1½ hours. Students will be expected to analyse resources relating to an issue that occurred in the last year. They will identify different perspectives held by people about the issue. They will describe their own viewpoint and explain why they hold this view.

Exam Hints / What to study – for students

English
For option 1:
- Research the author or director of the text
- Research anything else you can find out about the text from reviews and other writing
- Memorise some important quotes
- Make sure you can describe the ideas the author or director is communicating

For option 2:
- Make sure you are familiar with the following language features and are confident to find examples of these: alliteration, onomatopoeia, similes, metaphors, personification
- Practise finding examples and explaining what / how they communicate ideas to the reader.
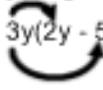
Science
You will receive a study booklet in class which will guide you as to the type of questions which will be in the exam. The booklet will be completed for homework and marked in class as part of the revision process.

Mathematics
The best way to revise for any Maths exam is by **doing questions**. The more you practise, the greater your chance of being able to answer problems successfully.
It is also useful to make yourself revision cards. These should contain a method and an example e.g.

Those doing an algebra paper should revise simplifying, indices, solving equations, expanding brackets and factorising.
Those doing number should revise fractions, decimals, percentages, ratio and estimation.
Teachers will revise these topics with students in class and will give them sheets of questions to practise. They can also get help from the following sources:
- Mathletics
- www.mathsisfun.com – choose number or algebra as applicable
- Khan Academy

Social Studies
Watch the news or read newspapers. Discuss issues with your parents / caregivers that are of interest to you. Try to see different viewpoints and identify why people hold these views.