



Willow Bank School

'Better Together'

Headteacher: Mr S Deadman
Willow Bank School
Simmins Crescent
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Tel: 0116 2298137

1 November 2023

Dear Y11 Parents/Carers and Students,

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn Term. With a busy lead up to the Christmas holidays we write to update you on a few key events for this half term and beyond.

Mock Exams

Mock exams will take place from **5th - 19th December**. Please find attached an overview timetable. Students will receive an individual timetable closer to the exams showing when they will take each of their exams. If students are on part time timetables we will endeavour to fit mock exams into their current timetable - this may be different from the attached.

Mock exams are a valuable process, not only for finding out what students know but to prepare them for the exam season. Mocks help the school to plan for the needs of all students in the real exams. Our teachers will be working with students to support their revision for the upcoming mocks.

External Exams 2023

Some students have been entered for external exams in December. These will take place as follows:

- Monday 11th December 9.30am ICDL (Computing) for 11 Red Orange
- Monday 11th December 11.30am ICDL (Computing) for 11 Yellow Green

Summer Exams 2024

The Department of Education have announced that the transition to pre-pandemic grading is complete and normal grading arrangements will continue for 2024. Results in 2024 will be broadly similar to 2023 outcomes. Exams will run as expected. The final summer 2024 exam timetable has been published and is available on the school website.

As part of contingency arrangements, schools are required to gather evidence of student performance that would be used to determine grades in the unlikely event that exams and assessments could not go ahead as planned. Mock exams will be used for this purpose.

School Website - Exams



Our school website contains a useful section relating to exams. Here you will find timetables, JCQ documentation, handy guides and policies relating to exams. This can be found in the STUDENT section of the website, under EXAMS.



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Homework

To support preparation for GCSE courses, students will be set homework by their teachers. Regularly completing additional work at home will help to consolidate learning and build confidence, as well as support helpful routines for revision, as we move towards the final exams.

In addition, there are homework booklets available, which can be found on the school website, if students are looking for further opportunities to work independently.



Attendance and Timetable Increases

Every year we can see the connection between good qualifications and good attendance at school. While part-time timetables have a place in helping students who are unwell to manage school on a stable timetable, students should attend as fully as their health allows. Please contact your child's tutor if further timetable increases can be managed.

If you have any further questions then please contact your child's tutor in the first instance.

We look forward to working with your child.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane Davies".

Diane Davies
Deputy Headteacher