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4th May 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

The summer exam season is fast approaching. We appreciate that this can be a stressful time for students and our aim is to support and guide them as effectively as possible to reduce stress and build their confidence ahead of these crucial exams. Set out below is detailed information covering a range of aspects which we hope will aid you in supporting your child during the exam season.

The formal after school revision sessions (which have run since September) will continue to run until 11th May.

Pre-Exam Revision Sessions and Study Leave

As in recent years, and in line with other NOVA trust schools, there will be no study leave for students. They will be expected to continue to attend school throughout the exam season (16th May to 23rd June) – see additional detail below. This will ensure students are well supported to achieve the best possible outcomes. As additional support, throughout this period there will be a series of pre-exam revision sessions (*please see attached schedule or click on the following link:*

https://www.garibaldischool.co.uk/data/uploads/year11/files/Overall_Exam_Revision_Schedule_2022.pdf

which will take place in the morning or afternoon prior to each exam. During these sessions subject teachers will support final preparations for the exam, give students the opportunity to address any last-minute queries and settle some nerves.

Once the exams begin students will follow an adapted timetable, they should, however still attend school full time through the exam season and in full school uniform. The following dates are set out below to ensure that parents/carers are clear on what is expected in terms of attendance in this period:

Monday 16th May	<p>Start of the formal exam period and of the arrangements as set out on the attached documents.</p> <p>From this point all Year 11 students will register during study period in the Hub where a free breakfast will be provided throughout the exam period.</p>
Thursday 23rd June	<p>This is the date up to which <u>students need to attend as normal</u>. If students miss sessions (i.e. morning or afternoon) up to this point these absences will be followed up as previously.</p> <p><i>If students have completed their studies in a subject prior to this point there will be opportunities to use this time to prepare for exams in other subjects.</i></p> <p>All Year 11 students have a Science exam in the afternoon on this date. This is the final exam for any Year 11 Student.</p>

Additional dates for your reference include:

Thursday 30th June	<p>The Year 11 Prom at Rufford Park Golf and Country Club for those students who have provided consent.</p>
From Thursday 30th June to Friday 8th July.	<p>Students' signing out. Once all your child's exams have been completed and all outstanding coursework submitted they can 'sign out'. Students will need to come into Student Services to collect a signing out form and then get the required</p>

	signatures from staff to complete the process. This should not take more than thirty minutes.
Friday 1st July and Results Day Thursday 25th August	Pre-ordered hoodies will be available for collection on Friday 1 st July 2022 between 2:00pm and 3:30pm or GCSE Results day 25 th August 2022.

Exam breakfast available

All Year 11 and 13 students can take advantage of toast and juice in The Hub every day during the exam season. This offer allows students to relax and speak with their peers prior to the exam.

Exam start times

All exams are designated as either AM or PM exams. All AM exams start at 9:00am and all PM exams start at 1:00pm. Students should arrive promptly at the exam room. Further information can be found here: <https://www.garibaldischool.co.uk/page.php?p=exams>

Wednesday 29th June 2022 – Exam contingency day

Exam awarding bodies have designated Wednesday 29th June 2022 as a 'contingency day' for examinations, (www.gov.uk/government/publications/exam-system-contingency-plan-england-wales-and-northern-ireland). This 'contingency day' is in place in the event of national or significant local disruption to exams in the United Kingdom. Therefore, students need to remain available for exams up to and including this date.

Mobile phones, electronic devices and other equipment during exams

In terms of exam conduct, mobile phones and other electronic devices, such as smart watches, are not permitted in the exam hall either on a student or in a student's bag. As a school, we no longer provide a facility for holding electronic devices. Ideally students should not bring such items into school on exam days; this applies to all students sitting any exams. All pencil cases used in the exam rooms must be see-through and all water bottles used must have their labels taken off. Further information on this can be found here: <https://www.garibaldischool.co.uk/data/uploads/web/files/IFC-Written Examinations 2021 v5.pdf>

Results Day 2022

GCSE Results Day is **Thursday 25th August 2022**; we will share details of the arrangements for this in due course.

I would also like to take the opportunity to reiterate the importance of students making use of their own time to support preparations for the exams. While we endeavour to support students as much as possible in school time, it is essential that time is allocated at home over the coming weeks. Revision time should be planned using a revision timetable, a possible template for which is in the exam preparation booklet we sent home last half term. Revision should go beyond simply reading through exercise books; again, suggestions and some guidance are available in the exam preparation booklet which have been shared with students via email.

If you have any queries in relation to the above, please do not hesitate to contact me for further clarification. If your question is directly related to exam conduct, please contact the Exams Office directly by e-mailing office@garibaldischool.co.uk or by phoning the school on 01632 464 220.

Finally, on behalf of the staff I would like to wish all our students' good luck for their exams.

Yours faithfully



Martin Dawson
Deputy Head Teacher