

Our Ref: RWK/JR

27 November 2023

Dear Year 11 Parents

I hope this letter finds you well. As the academic year progresses, we find ourselves approaching a crucial period for our Year 11 students – the GCSE examinations. It is a time that can be both exciting and challenging for our students, and we believe that your support and encouragement play a vital role in their success.

I am writing to emphasise the importance of valuing all exams at GCSE. While some subjects may be perceived as more critical or directly related to future career paths, it is essential to recognise that each subject contributes to a well-rounded education, fostering skills and knowledge that are valuable in various aspects of life.

Here are a few key reasons why we encourage a balanced and appreciative approach to all GCSE exams:

- Holistic Development:** The GCSE curriculum is designed to provide students with a comprehensive education, covering a range of subjects to promote holistic development. Each subject contributes unique skills, from analytical thinking to problem-solving, which are essential for future academic and professional pursuits.
- Flexibility in Career Paths:** It is common for students to change their career aspirations as they progress through their education. A solid foundation in a variety of subjects allows for greater flexibility when it comes to choosing A-levels, vocational courses, or even future career paths. A well-rounded education ensures that students are equipped to explore a wide array of opportunities.
- Transferable Skills:** Beyond the specific content of each subject, GCSEs are designed to impart transferable skills such as time management, effective communication, and critical thinking. These skills are not only valuable in academic settings but are crucial for success in any future endeavour.
- Future Educational Opportunities:** Some post-16 courses and higher education institutions may have specific entry requirements that include a range of subjects. Encouraging students to perform well across all their GCSEs opens doors to a broader array of educational opportunities.

We understand that the pressures of exams can be challenging for both students and parents. However, by reinforcing the importance of each subject and the diverse skills they develop, we can help our students approach their exams with a positive and motivated mindset.

We appreciate your continued support in guiding and motivating your child throughout this academic journey. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Thank you for entrusting us with the education and well-being of your child.

As always thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



Mr R Walkden
Headteacher



