



# SIR THOMAS BOTELER

## CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

THROUGH GOD, WE CARE

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November 2021

Dear Parents /Carers and Students

I would like to give you an update following on from the previous correspondence I have sent around the summer exams. At the time of writing last time, Ofqual had confirmed that externally set exams will return this summer, where exams are set, marked and graded by examiners, with everyone taking the same assessments at the same time. This is still the case as students in Year 10 and 11 have sat real exams already in January. Teachers in school are reinforcing this with students that external exams will go ahead in the summer.

### Advance Material

On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February, schools received 'Advanced Material' from the exam boards where some subjects like Maths and Science, topic list highlighting what topic/content will be assessed in the summer GCSE exams has been provided. Other adaptations include a choice of topics in some GCSEs like English literature and history, and support materials like formulae sheets in Maths. This is one of the adaptations the government have applied to maximise fairness following the disruption to learning caused by the pandemic. The Advanced Material, where subject content has been provided by the exam boards, has been turned into a more student friendly revision list which is on the 'Year 11 Team' icon on Microsoft Teams.

This will be very useful for students to focus their revision for summer GCSE exams but is also being used effectively by our teachers to ensure students are well prepared for the topics that will be assessed and allows teachers to deliver an even more focussed curriculum.

### Mock Exams

As you all know, the final Mock Exams start immediately on return from half term - the week beginning Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March. These Mock Exams will reflect the adaptations that have been made by the exam boards and will only assess the content outlined in the Advance Material. The content on the Mock Exams that students sit will be very similar to the content that will be assessed in the summer exams. This is a very exciting opportunity for students to achieve the best grades possible this year and is very unlikely to ever happen again as we move out of the pandemic. Results will be released to students as soon as they become available from their class/subject teacher. They will of course be emailed out to parents on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March.

### Year 11 Assembly

On Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February, Mr Kinsey and Mr Koltan delivered an assembly to Year 11 on what students need to be doing over the coming weeks to help them prepare for both their Mock and real GCSE exams. Students were told they now have 38 school days remaining until the GCSE exams start in May. Students were also give some practical tips on how to revise and what would be happening over the coming weeks.



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### Half Term Revision

This week, Period 6 sessions have been delivered by Mr Vallender for English, Mr Koltan and Miss Jones for Maths and Mr Iqbal for Science. In these sessions, students have been given a specific resource, a bit like a fitness plan, for them to complete over the half term. In addition to the hard copy given to the students, electronic versions are available on Teams as students have voiced they would like to access them on their mobile phones at home. These resources have been designed to give students the maximum gain and improvement for their investment in time. It will certainly help them prepare for the Mock exams.

In addition to the Period 6 Sessions, Mr Vallender is providing a revision/preparation session on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February starting at 9am and finishing at 11am. Students will need to confirm their attendance with Mr Vallender before we break for half term on Friday.

Mr Iqbal will also be delivering a Triple Science session on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February starting at 10am and finishing at 1pm. Again, students will need to confirm their attendance with Mr Iqbal before we break for half term on Friday.

For both sessions above, a signing in sheet will be available in the reception area at the front of school where students come in each morning.

If you have any questions around assessment or exams, please contact me:

[jkoltan@boteler.org.uk](mailto:jkoltan@boteler.org.uk)

Continue to work hard Year 11 and always do your best.

Yours faithfully

Mr J Koltan

**Senior Assistant Headteacher**



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