

Tongue Lane, Leeds LS6 4QE

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10 February 2017

Dear Parents

Year 11 Mock Examinations in English Language and Mathematics

GCSE mock examinations in English Language and Mathematics for Year 11 pupils will take place in school from Wednesday 1 March to Friday 3 March. Our pupils have been advised to make good use of the weeks beforehand by beginning revision during half term break.

Following the marking of these papers, pupils will be provided with information about the recommended areas for improvement suggested by their answers. In order to have maximum impact on GCSE examination performance, subsequent lessons in English and Maths will focus on these identified areas. Teaching will be targeted at the relevant knowledge and skills to be improved. Resources to revise gaps in knowledge and skills will be provided.

All our Year 11 pupils now have free access to two PiXL apps for smartphone and tablet (GCSE mathematics and GCSE English Literature) to help them identify their strengths and area to develop in these subjects. Users of the apps report improved examination skills. Details have been given to pupils by their teachers. Please encourage your child to make use of these excellent resources.

Punctuality

I remind pupils and parents of the need for punctuality. All pupils should be in school no later than 8.50am each day and present in their designated tutor rooms for registration or in the hall for assembly at 8.55am prompt every school morning. School doors will close at 8.55am prompt. Latecomers arriving after this time must ring the bell outside the doors next to the reception offices and wait to be admitted via this entrance.

Lourdes Pilgrimage 2017

Our Mass in the school chapel on Thursday was an early celebration of tomorrow's feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and the launch of our pupils' Lourdes Pilgrimage 2017. The Year 10 pupils involved are busy raising funds to support the visit.

Half Term Ski Trip to Sestriere, Italy

A group of pupils and staff enjoyed a visit to *Snozzone* at Castleford on Monday for an evening of indoor skiing on real snow. The 'slope experience' was part of final preparations for their ski trip to Sestriere, Italy, which sets off tomorrow. We remind pupils involved and their parents that departure will be from St Urban's car park, Tongue Lane, at 2.30pm prompt. Please arrive no later than 2.00pm. The group expects to return to St Urban's car park at approximately 8:00pm on Saturday 18 February. The time is subject to change, depending on possible delays at Manchester airport and traffic conditions on the journey back to Leeds.

Information about the 2018 ski trip will be available in March.

Early School Closure for Pupils on Wednesday 1 March

The school will close to pupils at 1.20pm on **Wednesday 1 March**. School buses will collect pupils from school at 1.30pm after an early lunch. Parents, please contact school without delay if this early closure causes you childcare problems. Pupils who are unable to get home may remain in school, supervised by staff, until 3.15pm. Normal lessons will be suspended. The time gained will be used by staff in training for raising achievement as part of the school's strategies for attaining consistently high levels of pupil progress.



Operating Theatre Live

A group of year 11 pupils were given a taste of anatomy and physiology at A-level and beyond this week when they carried out a range of procedures including a heart transplant and a leg amputation! The *Operating Theatre Live* event was set in a real operating theatre using anatomical samples freshly harvested from pig cadavers. Pupils studied, examined and dissected the specimens and they enjoyed being anaesthetists. The day included teaching on the physiology of organs and tissues. They were also cross-examined by a team of experts. Throughout the day there was a strong focus on providing pupils with up-to-date information so that they can make informed decisions about careers in a variety of medical professions. The enjoyable and inspirational day was a joint venture with Horsforth School.



Half Term

The half term holiday begins today, Friday 10 February, at 3.15pm. School re-opens to pupils on Tuesday 21 February. Monday 20 February is a staff training day when pupils are not in school.

Dates for the Diary

Monday 13 – Monday 20 February

Saturday 11 - Saturday 18 February

Monday 20 February

Tuesday 21 February

Sunday 26 - Tuesday 28 February

School Closed for Half Term

Ski Trip to Sestriere, Italy

Staff Training Day: no school for pupils

School re-opens to all pupils at 8.55am

Deadline for return of completed Year 8 option forms

Year 11 Residential Retreat to Ampleforth Abbey

Yours sincerely

E A Cox
Headteacher