

June 2019

Year 8 Examinations: Monday 1 – Friday 5 July 2019

Dear Parent

This July, we will be examining all Year 8 students in English, Maths, Science, Languages, History, Geography and Religious Studies throughout the week commencing Monday 1 July 2019. All of these examinations will be held in the Sports Hall. This will provide students with the opportunity to practice examination conditions as well as assess their progress during their first year at Lees Brook Community School.

Please note that formal examination conditions will be observed and all students are expected to follow these regulations. Any pencil cases should be transparent and water bottles are only permitted with the labels removed. In addition, all students will need black pens, pencils, rulers and a scientific calculator – all stationery items listed in the student planner. Mobile phones and smart watches must be switched off and placed in their bag. It is important that from Year 8 students follow these regulations so that they are fully prepared for their GCSE examinations in 2022.

Please can you support your child by ensuring that their attendance is excellent and they are punctual to school each day – research shows that a good level of attendance to school has a significant impact on achievement.

Students should spend time revising and preparing for these examinations, as they will be an important indicator of the progress that they have made during Year 8. Please can you check that they manage their independent study and revision time effectively (short blocks of revision on a regular basis works best). Your child may need help organising their revision, some additional resources (folders and/or coloured pens/pencils) and a quiet place to work. Please be positive and encouraging with your child.

The exams will cover work carried out over the whole year (teachers will give students lists of revision topics), it is important that your child uses a revision technique that works for them. All research indicates that students learn by ‘doing’ rather than just reading. Note taking and reducing information to card and memorising is essential but a variety of methods will help to improve your child’s ability to retain information. Your child will study and practise revision techniques in PCE lessons prior to their exam and revision activities will be set as homework over the next few weeks. Some effective revision strategies to use at home are:

- Spider diagrams
- Making posters and putting them around the house
- Apps and video clips
- Flashcards
- Mnemonics - for example **Robert Of York Gave Battle In Vain** = colours of the rainbow
- **Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet**

A key role as a parent is to test your child regularly on topics they have been revising to identify any gaps in knowledge (TEST – REVISE – TEST). It is also really important to ensure that your child starts revising the areas that they feel the least confident about first and that they are revising the subjects they don't like as well as the ones they do like.

Further information on revision techniques and exam regulations can be found on our website under the parent, and student headings. Should you wish to speak to me about any aspect of Year 8 Examinations, then please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zoe House". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'Z'.

Zoe House
Headteacher