



October 2023

Re: GCSE Mathematics Numeracy External Examinations and PPE Fortnight

Dear parent/ carer,

As you will already be aware, the second half term of the Autumn term is a busy time for our Year 11 students and the information below details important information regarding both the GCSE Mathematics Numeracy External Examinations and the upcoming PPE fortnight.

GCSE Mathematics Numeracy Examination (Tuesday 7th and Thursday 9th November)

The GCSE Mathematics Numeracy Examinations take place on Tuesday 7th and Thursday 9th November. Both examinations will take place in the **morning**, therefore it is crucial that students are in school and at their exam venue by 8.30am.

Students have already been emailed their examination timetable to their school email addresses. Please take note of seat numbers and students' candidate numbers, which they will need to memorise.

Teachers from the Mathematics Faculty will be available to support students prior to their examinations from 8:00am in the Upper School Canteen on both days.

On Monday 6th November, all Year 11 classes will have extra revision lessons. All groups will have three hours of additional lessons in total.

- X block: Period 1 (timetabled maths lesson), 4 and 5
- Y block: Periods 2, 3 and 4
- Z block: Period 1, 4 and 5 (timetabled maths lesson).

The Z block will also have an extra lesson on Wednesday period 1.

The extra lessons will not necessarily take place in a Maths classroom, so please remind your child to look at the room timetables that will be pinned up around the Maths Block.

Please can you also take the opportunity over the half term week to ensure that your child has all the equipment needed for these papers:

- Black pen (ballpoint or ink, not gel pen or erasable pen) – this is because the papers are scanned at WJEC.
- Pencil and eraser
- Ruler
- Protractor
- Compasses



- Calculator for unit 2 – Scientific is essential for students sitting the Intermediate and Higher Tier paper
- Clear pencil case or bag might be needed to hold this equipment.

These examinations make up 100% of the assessment for the GCSE Mathematics-Numeracy so it is vital that students are fully prepared for both papers. They must sit both papers – if one paper is missed then a full resit of both papers will be needed in the summer.

Lastly, just to remind you of some excellent websites that will help to support with revision over half term:

www.mathsdiy.com – past papers and solutions, and banks of questions by topic

www.drfrostmaths.com – past papers that will be marked on the site and give instant feedback, and links to video support

www.corbettmaths.com – banks of questions by topic and support videos

PPE Fortnight- Fortnight Commencing Monday 20th November

As you may already be aware, the fortnight commencing Monday 20th November is Year 11's Pre-Public Examinations (PPE) fortnight, where students will be completing mock examinations in each of their core and options subjects, with the exception of Maths due to the proximity of the external examinations to the PPE fortnight.

PPEs have a crucial role in preparing students for their upcoming GCSE examinations, ensuring students know what to expect and what is expected of them during public examinations, and allowing teaching staff to assess students' current progress, supporting them further in the final months of their GCSE studies.

All PPEs will be taking place during lessons two and three; the rest of the school day will run as normal and students are expected on site, as always, at 8:40am at the latest, and until 3:00pm during the course of the PPE fortnight. Outside of PPE times, students will attend their normal timetabled lessons. We would ask that you support with ensuring excellent attendance during this fortnight.

Where some options subjects have other arrangements for PPEs, for example, practical exams, students have been made aware of this during lessons.

Students will soon receive an examination timetable sent to their school email addresses. Please take note of the date and times of these PPE examinations, as well as seat numbers and students' candidate numbers, which they will need to memorise. Please disregard the title of the timetable and the element title- this is a quirk of the system used to generate students' examination timetables for PPEs. If students have any queries, they should ask their subject teacher in the first instance.

As is the case with the external Mathematics Numeracy examination, we would be grateful if you could support the school and your child by ensuring that all students come prepared with all equipment that they will need for the PPE examinations. Information regarding

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examinations and how students must prepare is available here: [Exam Information - Whitchurch High School \(whitchurchhs.wales\)](#).

Please also see the following information, which was shared at Year 11 Parental Engagement Evening, which details practical ways in which to support your child to prepare for, and during examinations: [PowerPoint Presentation \(whitchurchhs.wales\)](#)

We would like to thank you for your support over the next half term, and also to remind you that should you have any concerns regarding your child and their wellbeing during this period, you are encouraged to contact the Year 11 Progress Team to discuss,

Yours sincerely,

Ms L Sharpe

Assistant Headteacher: Assessment, Progress and Skills