



March 2024

Dear parent/ carer,

As you will be aware, the external examination period will soon be upon us and our Year 10 students will be involved in a number of exams which are crucial components of their core GCSEs. It is of utmost importance that students maintain a good level of attendance and are well organised and prepared for these units and we would like to thank you in advance for your support with this.

Students will be issued with an examination timetable before the Easter break and it is their responsibility to check this for the correct tier of entry and to be aware of venues and seats well ahead of time.

Students will be sitting externally assessed Welsh GCSE Oral Examinations on April 22nd, 23rd and 24th. The next few weeks will be being used as preparation time for these, and students will be able to seek advice from their Welsh teachers to ensure they are best prepared for this.

I must draw your attention towards the English Literature Unit One Examination, which takes place on Monday 13th May. This year, both Year 10 and Year 11 students will be sitting this unit and in order to facilitate this, Year 10 students will be placed with their English teachers for lessons one and two on this day, and closely supervised, before a delayed start of 11am for the Year 10 exam. As per the very strict JCQ guidelines governing this eventuality, please take note of the following:

- Students will not be allowed access to phones from 8:40am until after the completion of their examination (1pm)
- Students will need to be accompanied at breaktimes and during toilet breaks from their allocated classrooms with their English teachers
- Any student arriving late to lesson one is at risk of not being permitted to sit this examination

Science GCSE Units for both Double and Triple Award students will be held on: Monday 10th June (Biology), Thursday 13th June (Chemistry) and Monday 17th June (Physics).

As parents, we are aware that you will be keen to support your child during this crucial period of their education. I have attached the information provided by Mr Horgan during the Year 10 Parental Engagement Evening, which contains many useful resources to enable you to best support your child at this time. A structured revision plan, including addressing subjects little and often, coupled with healthy sleeping and eating habits will promote success for your child over the next few months.



We would also like to remind you about GCSEPod, an online resource that the school subscribes to. Students and parents regularly feedback that this is an invaluable support to them in their revision so please encourage your child to sign up and take a look at what it can offer them. If your child has already activated their account but can't remember their username and password, please ask them to contact a member of staff.

1. Go to www.gcsepod.com and click "**Login**" in the top right-hand corner
2. Click "**New to GCSEPod? Get started.**"
3. Select "**Student**"
4. Enter your child's **name, date of birth and the school name.**
5. Create a **username, password**, and a **password hint** to help them remember the password.

For more ways to support your child using GCSEPod, please visit www.gcsepod.com/parents where you'll find lots more information, a specially created Parent Toolkit with information on making the most of your child's subscription and links to their fantastic upcoming parent/carer webinars: <https://www.gcsepod.com/podup-presents-parent-webinars/> If you have any questions regarding GCSEPod please contact Mrs Emma Aston (astone@whitchurch.cardiff.sch.uk) who is leading on GCSEPod.

Please also be aware that the school should be a first port of call for all parents if there is anything you are unsure of or feel you or your child need support with at this time. Please get in contact with Mr Horgan, Ms Hollings, or myself if there are any concerns or queries.

Yours sincerely,

Ms L Sharpe

Assistant Headteacher: Assessment, Progress and Skills