



March 2024

Dear parent/carers

As you will be aware, the external exam period will soon be upon us and all Year 11 students will be involved in external exams. For some students, this period will mark the culmination of their education with us before they head off on other pathways, and for all students, these examinations mark the end of their compulsory education. As such, it is crucial for all students to be prepared and to feel supported during this intense and important period of their lives.

External examinations will commence on Thursday 9th May and students will be expected to remain in school until Friday 10th May. From this time on, students will study and revise at home in preparation for the exams and attend school for their exams, in plenty of time in advance of the times set out in their exam timetable. Students attending school, either for pre-arranged revision sessions or for examinations must attend in full uniform. For morning exams, students should be on site at 8:30am at the latest and for afternoon exams, students should be on site for 12:30pm. The exam timetable will follow via email for students by Friday 22nd March; students should already have received their statement of entry which details dates of their examinations. This information can also be found here: <https://www.wjec.co.uk/media/fgrjsjxz/summer-2024-wales-and-eduqas-gcse-final-exam-timetable-22-06-23.pdf>

I need to draw your attention specifically to the examination taking place on Monday 13th May: WJEC English Literature Unit One. This year, both Year 10 and 11 will be sitting this examination, and as a result, Year 11 students will need to be on site for 8:15am at the latest on this date; the exam will start promptly at 8:30am in order to facilitate Year 10 also sitting this exam.

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 Ms Polly during the Year 11 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 Ms Polly, Ms Hollings, or myself if there are any concerns or queries.

Yours sincerely,

Ms L Sharpe

Assistant Headteacher: Assessment, Progress and Skills