

VERITAS VINCET.

Omagh
Academy

Year 11 Parents' Meeting

January 2019
J. Cairns
Head of Year

Outline for this afternoon

- Preparing for GCSE unit exams
- General issues in Year 11
- Teacher interviews



GCSE course

- GCSE course taught over Year 11 and Year 12
- 5 ½ terms of work
- Almost 20% of the time has gone already!



Importance of GCSEs

- External exams used as entry criteria for:
 - Post 16 study e.g. A-levels, NVQ, BTEC diploma
 - University
 - Employment
- Lifelong impact
 - Job applications for the rest of your life!



Importance of GCSEs

- Given the importance of GCSEs, candidates should **do the best they can** to maximise their performance
- This involves:
 - Studying for exams
 - Controlled assessment tasks
 - Developing practical skills
 - Time management
 - Organisation
 - Self-discipline
 - Balancing extra-curricular and social life
 - Stress



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GCSE unit exams in Year 11

- Pupils will take several GCSE unit exams in Year 11
- The subjects involved are listed on an insert enclosed with the last report



Why unit exams in Year 11?

The positives:

- Allows pupils to sit an exam on a discrete portion of the specification while it is still fresh and relevant
- Encouragement for pupils who have been working hard and will gain high grades
- Reality check for some pupils who may underachieve but still give an opportunity to adjust study habits before Year 12 exams
- Spread the workload of revision over two years



Why unit exams in Year 11?

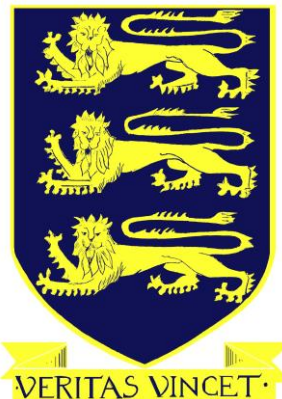
The negatives:

- Careful management needed for progression through year 11. E.g. meeting deadlines, review of course content, good attendance- parental support is vital
- Not all subjects will offer GCSE unit exams in Year 11
 - some not available
 - some not suitable
- Danger of prioritising subjects for which unit exams are available to the detriment of other subjects which will be examined solely in Year 12



Unit exams in Year 11- when and how?

- Papers will run from May 13th – May 31st 2019
- Exams to be taken will depend on subject choices- some pupils will sit more exams than others
- Please check relevant dates for your son/daughter
- Pupils will be excused from class to sit a GCSE exam
- Any work missed as a result of being absent from class will need to be caught up
- **Study leave will not be granted to pupils**



Unit exams in Year 11- when and how?

- Results will be published on 22nd August 2019 and notified by post
- Pupils who underachieve may wish to repeat a unit exam
- Cost of repeat units met by parents
- Fees range from £8.25-£14.40 per paper
- Units can only be repeated **once** and resits will take place in May/June 2020, **after a year of teaching when the focus will be on Year 12 unit content**



Advance notice!

- All pupils will take a GCSE Mathematics unit exam in January 2020 (i.e. year 12)



Year 11 unit exams - preparation

- GCSE study skills introduced by form teacher in PSE prior to internal exams in November 2018
- Thursday 28th February- study skills/revision techniques workshop conducted by “Learnspark”
- Tracking assessment end of term 2
- Revision will be necessary during Easter break
- Subject teachers will advise and support



General issues

- Attendance- please contact school office if your child is absent from school and provide written reason to form teacher on child's return.
- Uniform- your children are frequently **excellent** in terms of their uniform and appearance. Please partner with us in keeping the standards high.
- Mobile phones- your child should not be using their mobile phone in school unless they have direct permission from a teacher. The pupils are clear on the sanctions involved in breaches of this rule.
- Omagh Academy aims **to engender a sense of community, loyalty and mutual respect within the School, and promote a partnership between pupils, staff and parents**

