



Ref: U:\HOY\9\Exams  
April 2015

Dear Parent,

The Year 9 exams are scheduled to take place between Monday 11 May and Friday 22 May. All assessments will be carried out during normal timetabled lessons. The exams will cover work carried out over the whole year. Students will be told when exams will take place by their subject teachers and this should be recorded in their planner.

The revision booklet enclosed with this letter provides information on revision strategies and content of exams. Subject Leaders have given an overview of the requirements of each exam to enable students to prepare themselves appropriately. In addition, there is also material on our new Virtual Learning Environment or VLE. The VLE is a platform that allows schools to share information with all members of its community and allows them to interact with each other. There are various platforms in the educational market and we have decided to go with a product known as FROG.

Year 9 were introduced to FROG in Computing lessons last term and it is important to stress at the outset that this project is very much in its early stages and is by no means a finished product. As a school, we see this as a project which will take us over the next three to five years to fully utilise all its functionality and capabilities. Initially, Subject Leaders have prepared a variety of revision materials for Year 9 in the 'department' section of FROG. In addition, FROG will allow students to:

- Access lesson and revision materials from home through a web browser.
- Access their homedrive and Rdrive wherever they are.
- Access school information such as their weekly timetable.
- Navigate the platform through a variety of devices – tablets, laptop, PC or phone.

Year 9 have also been given access to GCSEPod which is a resource that can be accessed via FROG or via the GCSEPod app. Year 9 have started work on GCSE Science material and may find GCSEPod a useful resource to aid them with revision. GCSEPod covers 20 subjects and features over 3000 audio-visual podcasts. This provides over 400 hours of curriculum-relevant learning and revision material, written by teachers, narrated by professional voiceover artists and enhanced with text and images to engage the user. Each title features several 3-5 minute chapters which present students with relevant, easy-to-digest information.

All Year 9 students have attended an assembly on how to use FROG and GCSEPod and also had a hands-on session during Computing lessons last term. They have all been issued with instructions which I attach for your information. Please do not hesitate to contact Miss Bieber should you have any questions regarding end of year examinations or Mr Dixon if the question relates to FROG or GCSEPod.

Yours sincerely,

J A Dixon  
Deputy Headteacher

S Bieber  
Head of Year 9