



Ref: U:\HOY\8\Parents even&exam
April 2015

Dear Parent,

I am writing to inform you of arrangements for the Year 8 Parents' Evening on Wednesday 6 May, between 4.30pm and 7.00pm and Year 8 Exams which begin on Monday 11 May and end on Friday 22 May.

Students are expected to make appointments with staff for the Parents' Evening and record them in their planner to provide you with a schedule for the night. Staff may also ask to see you, and will make an appointment through your son. This has been found to be the most efficient method of making appointments since you can make your son aware of any time restrictions on your availability and he can book accordingly. This system also encourages him to take responsibility for his learning, and promotes skills of communication and organisation in your son.

Consultations are of five minutes duration. Should there be an issue which will require more time than this, may I request that you contact me and a separate appointment can be made.

Due to time pressures and teaching duties, it is unlikely that I will be able to see you without an appointment on the 6 May. However, if you do need to speak with me, and I do not have free slots on my schedule, please feel free to arrange a 'call-back' by contacting the School Office.

Year 8 exams will start on the 11 May and end on 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 8 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 8 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.

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All Year 8 students have attended an assembly on how to use FROG 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 me should you have any questions regarding end of year exams or Mr Dixon (Deputy Headteacher) regarding FROG.

Please complete the reply slip on the bottom of this letter and return to the School Office, via your son, by Monday 27 April 2015.

Yours sincerely

Mr Davis
Head of Year 8

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Return to: Form Tutor by Monday 27 April

I/we* will/will not* be attending the Year 8 Parents' Evening on Wednesday 6 May.

Student Name: Form: 8.....

Signed: (Please Print Name):

*Please delete as appropriate