

27<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

We appreciate that this is quite a long letter. Please do take the time to read it and keep it for future reference, as it contains important information about the summer examinations, as well as the progress check that has just been issued.

### ***Information about the progress check***

Your child's teachers have recently completed a Year 11 Progress Check, which gives an indication of how students are approaching their studies and how they are performing on their courses.

This report is available to you electronically via Go4schools in the *Reports* section; please note that it is best viewed as a pdf. **It would be helpful if you could access Go4schools via your own account, rather than your child's, to enable us to have a clear record of which parents have read this report.**

In this progress check, subject teachers have given two grades: *most likely* and *fair wind*.

- The *most likely* grade is the grade that the teacher believes the student is most likely to achieve overall at the end of Year 11, based on what they have seen from them so far (e.g. classwork, homework, assessments, current approach etc.).
- The *fair wind* grade is an aspirational indication of what a student could potentially achieve if they put in maximum effort, act on teacher feedback and prepare effectively for the final exams.

Please bear in mind that the grades given in this progress check are based on evidence to date and cannot be used to draw conclusions about what might be given as a teacher-assessed grade, should this situation arise.

Combined Science is the equivalent of two GCSEs. Grades are formed of two numbers, from 9-9 to 1-1. It is possible to achieve a split grade e.g. a 5-4, which is halfway between a grade 5-5 and 4-4.

As the GCSEs in English Language and English Literature are taught as a combined course, the information on classwork, homework and behaviour given in English Language applies for both these subjects. As they are two individual GCSEs, teachers have given separate *most likely* and *fair wind* grades for each subject.

### ***Preparing for the summer examinations***

- Students should already be preparing for their summer exams. Revision advice is being given in lessons and revision strategies are being modelled.
- Further advice on how to revise effectively can be found on our school website (this includes study tips from previous GCSE students). Please see the 'Learning' section on the school website – then go to the tab titled 'How to learn at GCSE': <https://www.northgate.suffolk.sch.uk/learning/how-to-learn-at-gcse>. There is also subject specific advice on the relevant subject pages in [Learning/Curriculum by subject](#).
- The slides from revision advice evening can be found in [Learning/Year 11 revision advice evening](#).
- We also recommend the free resources on the following website for students and parents who want to look further into effective study habits and revision techniques: <https://examstudyexpert.com/>
- The Homework & Revision Centre is open after school Monday – Thursday from 15:10 to 16:30, upstairs in Middle School.
- Many subjects structure revision for students through the homework they set on Go4schools. Students need to complete these tasks each week.

Staff are supporting students with strategies for managing anxiety and stress. In addition, 'Young Minds' offer useful advice, which can be accessed here: <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/coping-with-life/exam-stress/>

### ***Information about the summer examination series***

The timetable for the summer exams is available on the Northgate website in [Learning/Examinations/Summer 2024](#). The main examination period starts on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May. **Please note that all students need to be available to sit examinations until the end of 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024 due to awarding body contingency planning.**

Your child will have received their personalised examination timetable via their school email address. Please take the time to go through this timetable with your child; any errors should be reported to the exams office immediately. In the case of any clashes, students will receive a separate communication about arrangements at the start of the summer term.

**During the examination period from Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May to the end of Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June, students will attend lessons when not in an exam.** Students with an afternoon exam will be permitted to leave Lesson 3 at 12.35 to have lunch and a break before their exam.

All students will take a GCSE Maths exam on the **morning of Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June; following this, students will commence study leave**, and will revise at home when not in an exam. Teachers in subjects in which the final examination has not yet taken place will be available in the usual lesson slot and venue if students would like to come to school for support with their revision. We would ask that students arrive for the start of the lesson if they are planning attend in order that staff can make the most of the time with them.

Morning exams will start at 9.00am, and afternoon exams at 1.30pm. **Students should arrive 15 minutes before these times** to ensure a prompt start.

The location of exams will be added to the timetable on the school website in due course. Students with extra time access arrangements should go to the venue on the exam timetable. However, if their SEN access arrangement includes use of a laptop, scribe or reader, they should report to A32 at least 15 mins before the start time.

I would like to take this opportunity to express how important your role is in ensuring that your child is fully prepared for their exams and approaches them seriously. We would appreciate your support in ensuring your child has the correct equipment and arrives on time for all exams wearing the appropriate school uniform. Students should only have a water bottle that is clear and has no label. The exam boards stress that it is the responsibility of the student to come with the correct equipment, so we recommend that a clear pencil case with black biros, ruler, protractor, compass, pencil, rubber and a calculator should be brought to all exams. We will not be loaning any equipment to students. We would ask that students ensure that they visit the toilet prior to taking their exams, as toilet breaks should only be taken in an emergency or in case of medical need.

In accordance with the exam board regulations, students are not permitted to have the following in their possession in the exam room: air pods, earphones/earbuds, mobile phones, any type of watch, iPods, MP3/4 players or similar devices. The full information for candidates from JCQ is available on the Northgate website in [Learning\Examinations\Information for Candidates](#) – it is vital that students read and follow these rules.

We hope that you find this information useful. If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's form tutor or the relevant subject leader.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Gaffney  
Head of Year 11

Mr C Hill  
Examinations Officer