



To the parents of pupils in Year 10:

The GCSE courses your son has started this term are different to those taken in previous years. There is more emphasis on modular exams taken during the two year course. Coursework in its previous form – that is done at home – is changed to ‘controlled coursework assignments’ which are prepared at School and at home but are completed under supervised conditions in School.

The information below gives you a picture of what lies ahead for your son as this new system takes shape. There are some modules in January 2010 but the biggest change is the number of modules to be taken in June 2010 and which may count for up to 50% of the final mark. Parents Evening next term will give you the opportunity to add detail subject by subject to this picture but these two tables provide you with an outline.

The immediate priority for all boys is preparation for modules in Maths, Physics and Chemistry which take place immediately after Christmas.

Table 1 indicates when GCSE modules will be taken subject by subject. In addition the second column (Easter 2010) indicates which subjects will hold internal end of year examinations. In effect these examinations will act as trial exams for modules to be taken in May/June.

Maths Sets 1 and 2 (taught by Mr Heslop, Mr Ahmadzadeh, Mr Herrington or Miss Potter) will take the first module of their GCSE (Numbers and Statistics) in January 2010. It is likely that the two set 1s will complete their GCSE in Summer 2010 while the set 2s will complete in January 2011.

Sets 3 and 4 (taught by Mr Cummins, Mr Wales, Mr Taylor and Mrs Short) have an end of term test in December 2009. They will take the first module of their GCSE in January 2011 and complete in Summer 2011.

Table 2 indicates to the best of our knowledge when coursework will be started and completed in specific subjects.

In English all groups will do three or possibly four pieces of coursework in Year 10 and the remaining one or two pieces of coursework will be completed in Year 11 by Easter. Specific dates will vary between sets.

Art has a 60% coursework component but in Art the term is used in a slightly different sense than may be the case in some other subject areas. ‘Coursework’ here simply refers to all of the work that pupils do in class and for homework between the start of Year 10 and about the end of February in Year 11. There will be a practical exam at the end of Year 11.

Table 1 - Modules

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Jan 2010 Modules</i>	<i>Easter 2010 Internal Exams</i>	<i>June 2010 Modules</i>	<i>Jan 2011 Modules</i>	<i>June 2011 end of course final Modules</i>
English					
Maths					
Biology					
Chemistry					
Physics					
Geology					
MFL					
R & P					
Latin					
Business Stud					
Economics					
Geography					
History					
Design & Tec					
Music					
PE					

Shaded squares indicate modules will take place

Table 2 – Coursework

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Year 10</i>						<i>Year 11</i>			
	<i>Aut 1</i>	<i>Aut 2</i>	<i>Spr 1</i>	<i>Spr 2</i>	<i>Sum 1</i>	<i>Sum 2</i>	<i>Aut 1</i>	<i>Aut 2</i>	<i>Spr 1</i>	<i>Spr 2</i>
Biology										
Chemistry										
Physics										
Geology										
MFL										
Bus Stud										
Geography										
History										
ICT										
D & T										
Music										
PE										

Shaded squares indicate that coursework will take place

The information in the two tables above is a guide only to the modules and coursework to be undertaken by current Year 10 pupils. However, this is the first year of the new GCSEs and as a result the Heads of Department may make alterations.

In most subjects final modules will be taken at the end of Year 11 (taking the place of the ‘traditional’ GCSE exams).

The module exams shown do not include possible re-sits which may be arranged during year 11 for individuals in certain subjects.

In the event of any queries, please contact the Head of Department or subject teacher via your son.