

19 November 2020

Dear Parents Carer of Year 11 Students

Curriculum Changes this year

You will be aware that there have been a number of changes to the year 11 curriculum this year because of school closure last year due to COVID-19. Ofqual consulted on changes and then exam boards used the outcomes of these consultations to make changes to what needs to be studied by year 11s during the year.

The Department for Education (DfE) have also made changes that affect all students nationally and also directed schools to make changes at a local level to support year 11 students in preparation for GCSE examinations at the end of the year.

In some subjects we are still waiting for exam boards to release the final decisions on changes but we have enough information now for me to set out a summary of changes so that you understand the curriculum your sons/daughters are studying in year 11 this year.

Changes specific to Fullbrook:

1. GCSE Religious Education is no longer being studied as part of the timetable. This time has been allocated to extra maths. (For students who wish to take RE, this is still available through after school sessions).
2. All subjects are interleaving the work that was taught during the lockdown period into lessons as we progress through the year. This means that over time, all curriculum aspects taught in lockdown will be covered in small chunks. Curriculum plans have been altered based on surveys conducted with students to identify aspects of the curriculum that need to be covered again. Curriculum plans can be viewed on the school website here <http://www.fullbrook.surrey.sch.uk/curriculum-overview/>
3. Revision workshop sessions have begun after school. Students have been made aware of the timetable of sessions. DfE guidelines allow these sessions to continue during the current lockdown period.
4. Tutor time for year 11 students in the morning has been extended to 30 minutes. This time is used for a range of supportive activities. Students currently use Thursday tutor time to revise. This programme of supervised revision will intensify as students move through the year.

National Changes from DfE:

1. The start of GCSE exams has been delayed by 3 weeks. The DfE hopes this will provide students with more time to complete courses. We will keep you informed as we receive further information about this.
2. English Language Paper 1 and Maths Paper 1 are to be held before May half term.
3. The DfE is supporting measures schools decide are needed to help all students in year 11 make good progress this year (e.g. After-school revision sessions). Additional funding has been made available to help students who are disadvantaged. Fullbrook is carefully targeting support for students. This is being co-ordinated by Mrs Shearer who will be contacting parents and students throughout the year to offer additional intervention opportunities.

Changes from exam boards:

The changes in each subject are very specific and information finalising changes in most subjects was published last week by Ofqual and the DfE. This information is available, subject by subject, on the DfE website here https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-subject-level-conditions-for-2021?utm_source=b99bbe1c-53de-4620-9499-15c19da890ee&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

I have tried to summarise the main changes in the table below. Please note, this is a rough, overview, Heads of Faculty and Subject Leaders have read documentation in detail and curriculum planning has been changed accordingly.

Art	No Exam. Grade will be decided on Coursework projects
Business Studies	No change
Computing	No Change
Design Technology : Resistant materials, Graphics.	Coursework must still be completed but the final product does not have to be completed, a prototype is acceptable. Some skills can be learned through demonstration. The exam remains the same.
Drama	The requirement to view a live performance is to be done via a streamed or recorded performance. The external examiner will not visit the school site, all performance work will be recorded and submitted to the examiner. New minimum time restrictions of 2 minutes have been applied to the Devising Drama component. The Acting Exam now only requires one monologue performance of at least 2 minutes. The written exam remains the same.

English Language	Speaking and Listening assessments will be made by the teacher and video recorded evidence will not have to be sent to the exam board. The exam remains the same.
English Literature	The anthology of poetry is no longer required. Students will be assessed in the exam on the unseen poetry element only. The only compulsory elements are Shakespeare and unseen poetry, then students choose two of 19th century lit/modern text/anthology poetry.
Food and Nutrition	Only one practical examined assessment will be required. The exam remains the same.
Geography	There is no requirement to complete field work. The exam paper covering the fieldwork element will be altered so that the weighting of marks applied to field work contexts is reduced.
History	There is no longer a requirement to study the Cold War unit. This will no longer be examined.
Maths	No change
Media Studies	No change
Languages (French and Spanish)	The Speaking section of the exam will now be teacher assessed with n requirement to submit recorded evidence. The exams in Writing, Reading and Listening remains the same.
Music	Coursework has been reduced to 1 performance and 1 composition. The minimum time for each has also been reduced. The exam remains the same
Physical Education	The external examiner will not visit the school site, all practical work will be recorded and submitted to the examiner. Reduction from 3 to 2 practical activities and both are allowed to be individual. Relaxation of the requirements for provision of evidence for example, type and quality of videoed evidence and the evidence of participation in competitive sport. Coursework (NEA) no change The exam remains the same.
Psychology	No Change
Science: Combined Science	No Change
Science : Single sciences	No Change
Sociology	No Change
Textiles	No Exam. Grade will be decided on Coursework projects

I would like to congratulate year 11 students on the very positive way they have returned to school this year and the hard work they have already shown. Year 11 students will receive careers

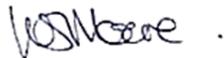
information advice and guidance, post-16 education support, effective revision techniques, mental well-being strategies, and academic support via the pastoral programme in tutor time.

It is important that students continue to work hard and follow the guidance of their teachers who will ensure that they complete all necessary content for their exams. Revision sessions provide additional support and I would strongly encourage students to attend in subject areas where their teachers tell them this would help their progress.

Preparing for Mock exams is always important, and given the uncertainty we face, is now more important than ever. You have already received information from the year 11 team about mocks and further details will be sent to you. However, I also urge you to help your son/daughter to find a good work life balance as it is very important that students work in a healthy way and protect their mental health so that they can go on to be 'better than they ever thought they could be'.

Thank you for your support. I hope that you find this information useful.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Moore', followed by a period.

Mrs K Moore
Principal