



Brownhills Ormiston Academy

Deakin Avenue, Brownhills, Walsall,
West Midlands, WS8 7QG

Tel: 01543 452886

Email: postbox@brownhillsoa.co.uk

Web: www.brownhillsoa.co.uk

Principal: Mrs A Lloyd

RD/CD/PLET69H

05 June 2024

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 10 Students,

Important Year 10 Update

This letter is an important update to inform you of what we need Year 10 students to do over the next 7 weeks as they complete Year 10. It also details the support and intervention that will be offered during this critical time where we need school and home to work together closely to ensure that all students are meeting their potential.

We have been clear with Year 10 students that they are a fantastic year group with a great deal of potential. We now need to make sure that students are working hard enough to achieve their potential. It is time to step up a gear!

Attendance

Attending school every day has the most impact on any student's chances of success. Every time a lesson is missed, crucial learning opportunities are missed. I urge you not to book any holidays in term time. Please do not allow your child to miss school as any absence has a very negative impact on your child's progress.

Home Learning and Revision

Home learning makes a significant difference to the success of students on examination courses. In Years 10 and 11, the Government recommends about 2 - 2.5 hours of home learning per day. This should be a **minimum** expectation in preparation for mock examinations. This can be through work set by teachers, but also through independent study, access to online resources, using revision materials and completing past papers. Students have had guidance on the best ways to revise over the last 6 months and at both the Prepare to Perform and Strategies for Success information evenings.

Year 10 GCSE Pre-Public (Mock) Exams – beginning Monday 10th June 2024

As you already know, Year 10 students will sit 'mock' examinations in every subject they take. These exams begin on **Monday 10th June 2024** and last for around two weeks. These examinations are referred to as 'mock' because they duplicate the situation that students will experience when they take their external examinations. If a student misses an examination or arrives late, they will receive a grade U (ungraded) which is what will happen in their final Year 11 examinations. Attendance is therefore essential. If there are any extenuating circumstances on the day of the examination (for example chronic illness) please contact the academy as soon as you can to keep us informed and discuss any support that we can offer. It is vital that preparation for these exams is thorough and taken seriously by students as the results are the estimation of likely performance in final exams and are used to give references for employment and post-16 courses. Most importantly, the results inform the next steps for teachers to plan lessons that will meet the needs of all students. **By now, students should be revising every evening.**



Brownhills Ormiston Academy

Deakin Avenue, Brownhills, Walsall,
West Midlands, WS8 7QG

Tel: 01543 452886

Email: postbox@brownhillsoa.co.uk

Web: www.brownhillsoa.co.uk

Principal: Mrs A Lloyd

Students have received the timetable for these examinations so that they can effectively plan their revision and preparations for these exams. A repeat copy of the timetable will be issued by the end of this week and a copy is at the end of this letter.

Year 10 3Ms – Mindset, Motivation & Memory

We have run weekly assemblies called **the 3Ms** for Year 10 focused on preparing for effective study since July 2023. We began by talking about growth mindset and students having a positive attitude to their learning. We then moved on to effective study at home, including the environment in which they study and the best ways to work.

Throughout the Spring Term, we taught Year 10 students about how the brain works so that they understand how they learn and how they can learn more and remember more. We then moved on to look at effective revision strategies that students can use as they prepare for their mock exams.

Useful Links

Our website contains a Key Stage 4 Hub under the 'Students and Parents' tab. This contains all the presentations given by staff in recent information evenings and guidance on student wellbeing and revision. Please visit: www.brownhillsoa.co.uk/for-students/ks4hub

After the mock examinations

The period after the mocks before the summer holiday is vital. In lessons, teachers will address misconceptions identified in exam papers and will begin to close the gap so that students achieve their potential. At this time, expectations of students in lessons and at home will increase.

Year 10 reports with the results from the mock examinations will be released to parents by **Wednesday 10th July 2024**.

Students have been told that they may have set changes after the mock examinations and will move to new tutor groups in preparation for Year 11. At this point, English and Mathematics intervention will begin in the morning and students will begin to receive additional guidance about careers, colleges and apprenticeships.

Although we will continue with our usual summer activities, including rewards trips, Sports Day and end of term activities, Year 10 students need to know that it is business as usual with hard work expected until the end of the school year.



Brownhills Ormiston Academy

Deakin Avenue, Brownhills, Walsall,
West Midlands, WS8 7QG

Tel: 01543 452886

Email: postbox@brownhillsoa.co.uk

Web: www.brownhillsoa.co.uk

Principal: Mrs A Lloyd

Mock Exam Timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 2	10	11	12	13	14
			Y10 Exam Chemistry 9am		
	Y10 Exam 1pm En Lang			Y10 Exam 1pm Physics	
Week 1	17	18	19	20	21
	Y10 Exam 9am Maths 1		Y10 Exam 9am Biology		Y10 Exam 9am En Lit
			Y10 Exam 1pm Option Block A	Y10 Exam 1pm Option Block B	Y10 Exam 1pm Maths set L1 only
Week 2	24	25	26	27	28
	Art Exam (all day)			Geog Field Trip Brownhills	Geog Field Trip Brownhills

Thank you

Thank you for your continued support of the academy. We all want the very best outcomes for every student, so teachers and parents/carers working together will offer your child the support and encouragement they need.

If you have any questions or need additional support, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will be happy to help.

Yours sincerely,

Mr R T Doodson
Vice Principal