RESILIENCE · RESPECT · INTEGRITY · COMMUNITY
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Website: www.theongaracademy.org
Headteacher: Mr. J. Sands
Deputy Headteacher: Ms. R. Gilbert

SWI/JSA

May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers of our Year 11 Students

Re: Year 11 GCSE Examinations and Study Leave

I would like to take this opportunity to write to you all to inform you of the upcoming arrangements for the Year 11's and their GCSE examinations, as well as study leave. As you will be aware, the exams start on the 8th May with PE, Drama and German, and the first all cohort exam on Monday 12th May, English Lit paper 1.

Exam Arrangements:

- If students have an AM exam, they will be expected in school for a compulsory warm up at 8 am.
- This will take place in the hall, unless a small cohort subject, where a classroom may be better suited. Students will be made aware if this is the case.
- A register will be taken between 8 and 8:15, if students are not in by this point, then phone calls home will be made to find out the child's whereabouts.
- After the AM exams, students will be housed in the atrium/hall until an early break time at 11.
- For PM exams these all begin at 1:30, students will attend p4 until 1:00pm, when they will make their way down to the atrium for an early lunch.
- Students will be dismissed directly after their PM exam, they will not be returning to lessons.
- Some of the exams will finish after 3pm, if your son/daughter gets UGO buses, please make alternative transport arrangements on these days.
- If you wish for your child to remain in school until 3pm after their PM exam, please let me know, otherwise we take it that permission has been given for students to leave directly after their exam.

Study Leave:

- Students will remain in school as normal for all lessons until Friday 16th May. From Monday 19th May to Friday 23rd May, there will be a Hybrid system in place that students can adopt. Discussions will need to be had at home to discuss which is best suited for each child.
- Students/parents can choose to have study leave after Friday 16th May, and revise at home, only coming in for their exams.
- Students/parents can also choose to remain at school and have structured lessons with their teachers. You can select to remain at home one day, but be in school the next. If it is decided your child will come into school, parents will sign a form, which will go out by early next week.

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- There will be two sessions you can select: AM or PM.
- AM is tutor time until p4.
- PM is P5.
- Students cannot turn up to school when they want, or leave when they want. If you have selected AM, students cannot then decide they want to leave school at 10:30.
- You can pick and choose which days you would like your child to be in school or at home. You will have the freedom to choose which suits your child best, depending on their lessons at school/exams that day.
- After half term, it will be full study leave, in school for exams only, no year 11 lessons.

When in school, students will have structured revision lessons. We feel that the Year group have worked tirelessly this year and we are in a position to keep this momentum going with their teachers in lessons. The more contact time the students have with their teachers, the better, and it improves their chances of success over the exam period. However, we also understand that some students may work better at home, which is why we are giving you the option.

After their English exam on **23rd May**, there will be a leavers assembly @ 11:30 – 12:30. This will be followed by time at the Youth centre to sign shirts, for students to have some pizza, BBQ, Ice cream truck, games, music, sweet treats, refreshments put on by our excellent PTA. Please come along and join us from 12:15/12:30 – 14:00, bring a picnic blanket (and food for yourselves if you would like), take some pictures and enjoy the afternoon with us. Hopefully the weather holds out.

Special request for any pictures (embarrassing or not) to be sent to me at swilliams@theongaracademy.org so that I can display these in the celebration assembly. This went down really well last year.

Once again, our genuine thanks and appreciation to you and your children for your excellent efforts and support throughout this academic year.

If you have any questions surrounding any of this, please let me know, and I will get back to you when I can.

Kind regards,

Mr Williams
Assistant Head: Progress and Outcomes.