



Heathcote School & Science College

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Headteacher: Emma Hillman NPQH, MSc, MA

9th October 2020



Dear Parents/Carers,

RE: Challenge Week – Monday 19th October to Friday 23rd October, 2020



All pupils from Year 7 to Year 13 will be sitting tests/mock exams in the upcoming Challenge Week. For Year 11 and 13 pupils, these exams are vital in the planning and preparation for GCSE/A-level exams in the summer and will provide information on areas of strength and weakness for teachers at an individual level. By now, all pupils should be revising in preparation for these tests and teachers will be uploading work and revision materials on Google Classrooms. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that 'Show My Homework' will be discontinued after half term and that Google Classrooms is now our system for setting work.



I am writing to make you aware of all the arrangements in place for your child's upcoming Challenge Week.



Challenge Week Arrangements:

Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12

- Pupils will go to their usual timetabled lessons and rooms throughout the week. They will remain in their bubbles at all times in line with our risk assessment.
- Attached to this letter is a timetable which shows which periods pupils will have exams and which periods they will have normal lessons.
- Each year group will have a PIE workshop session on the Wednesday and the timetable shows you when this will take place. This is not relevant to year 12 pupils.
- Year 12 pupils will have a drop down session on Thursday 22nd October at 13.40pm focusing on Health, Relationships and Sex Education. If you do not want your son/daughter to be included in this session, please inform the sixth form reception.
- Pupils should ensure that they bring the correct exam equipment every day. This includes pens (x2), sharp pencil, a ruler, a rubber and a calculator in a clear transparent pencil case.
- All phones, smart watches and devices/web enabled sources of information are prohibited during tests and exams.
- Possession of any unauthorised material will lead to disqualification and zero marks for your paper.
- Pupils will place their bag under their desk when they enter the exam venue and coats will be placed on the back of chairs.
- Year 7 Lunch time will be moved to 11:40am - 12:20pm all week.
- For KS3 pupils only - due to the makeup of the two-week timetable, a small number of exams will be picked up after half term in lessons (Week B).



Year 11

- Attached is your son/daughters timetable showing the times, dates, seat number and the venue for all of their exams. Please note that your son/daughter will be sitting in the same seat all week in examinations; it is imperative they have remembered it before Challenge Week starts.
- Whenever pupils do not have an exam, they are to go to their normal lessons and will remain in their bubble at all times throughout the week, in line with our risk assessment.
- Lunch time has been adjusted for Year 11 pupils to 12:30pm – 13:00pm to allow for longer exams.
- All Year 11 exams will take place in the Sports Hall, except for listening exams, which will take place in classrooms as indicated on the attached timetable.



- Pupils should ensure they bring the correct exam equipment every day. This includes pens (x2), sharp pencil, a ruler, a rubber, a protractor and a scientific calculator in a clear transparent pencil case.
- On this occasion and in line with our risk assessment, pupils will place their bag under their desk when they enter the exam venue and their coat will be placed on the back of their chair.
- Pupils will be asked to line up outside the Sports Hall according to their row number which is indicated on their timetable. For example, if their timetable shows their seat is A1 that means they line up in row A.
- All phones, smart watches, devices/web enabled source of information are prohibited in the exam room.
- Possession of any unauthorised material during an exam will lead to disqualification and zero marks for your paper.

Year 13

- Year 13 exams will take place in 608 and/or classrooms in the sixth form as shown on the attached timetable and will remain in their bubble at all times in line with our risk assessment.
- Where possible, pupils will be sat in the same seat for all their exams.
- Pupils should ensure they bring the correct exam equipment every day. This includes pens (x2), sharp pencil, a ruler, a rubber, and your A Level calculator when you have a maths exam; all equipment should be in a clear transparent pencil case.
- Lunch time has been adjusted for Year 13 pupils to 12:30pm – 13:00pm to allow for longer exams.
- On this occasion and in line with our risk assessment, pupils will place their bag under their desk when they enter the exam venue and their coat will be placed on the back of their chair.
- All phones, smart watches, devices/web enabled source of information are prohibited in the exam room.
- Possession of any unauthorised material during an exam will lead to disqualification and zero marks for your paper.

n.b. water is allowed to be taken into the exam venue but must be in a clear plastic bottle – all labels are to be removed prior to the exam.

Pupils with alternative arrangements may receive further information next week regarding exam arrangements. Pupils will need to speak to Ms Smith or Ms Gardiner if they have any questions. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight to you that for Year 11 and 13 pupils, Challenge Week exams are more important than ever in this current climate with exam uncertainty for the summer series. Having robust mock exam data is imperative, as it could be used as evidence for the final predicted grades if exams do not go ahead. Following Challenge Week, teachers will mark papers and enter the scores or grades for all pupils. You will receive reports on Wednesday 18th November for pupils in KS3 and reports for pupils in KS4 and 5 on Wednesday 25th November.

Thank you in advance for your on-going support. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns - miriam.argyrakis@heathcote.waltham.sch.uk.

Yours Sincerely,



Ms M Argyrakis
Assistant Headteacher – Raising Standards