

Ref: GWI/SAH/Exams

23rd May, 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Exams Update – May 2019

We are now half way through the GCSE exam weeks and so I am writing to update you on progress so far. We have been impressed with the students' attitudes to their exams and even when the temperatures have started to rise, they have managed to maintain concentration in exam rooms.

However, you may be aware from the national press that there have been several potential risks to GCSE exam papers this year. As a result of this, exam boards are becoming more stringent in their expectations of the checks which we will complete, to ensure that all students are complying with the strict rules attached to exams and the exam halls.

Students are not allowed to bring mobile phones, smartwatches, iPods or any other electronic device into the exam hall. They are reminded of this several times before they enter the room. However, a very small minority students have still handed in mobile phones once they have entered the exam hall, before the start of the exam. In order to ensure that this practice does not continue we will be carrying out random searches of students using our metal detector wand, in order to ensure that no student is taking an electronic device into an exam hall. Checks will be completed before students enter exam room, when they are dropping their bags and phones off at the locked bag room.

In addition, an increasing number of students are requesting to leave the exam hall to go to the toilet. Not only is this disruptive for the student themselves, but it disrupts the remaining students in the exam hall. Students will no longer be allowed to visit the toilet during exams. They are reminded to visit the toilet a number of times before the start of the exam, and this practice will continue, but we cannot allow students to continue to disrupt their own and other's exams by visiting the toilet during the exam itself.

I trust that you will support the school team in ensuring that the integrity of all GCSE exams is maintained, and that we are able to ensure that every student has the same uninterrupted opportunity to complete their exam.

Yours faithfully,



Mr G Williams
Headteacher