



27 November 2018

Dear Parent/ Carer,

As you may be aware, the government reformed GCSE qualifications in 2015. The main changes to GCSEs were as follows:

- A new grading scale of 9 to 1 replaced the A*-G scale, with 9 being the top grade. This was done to enable greater differentiation between students and help distinguish the new GCSEs from previous versions.
- Coursework was scrapped in most subjects; assessment is now mainly by exam, with other types of assessment used only where they are needed to test essential skills.
- The content of GCSEs was updated to include new, more demanding content, which has been developed by government and the exam boards.

Your child will be formally assessed three times this academic year. The first assessment point will be Monday 10th December to Friday 14th December. Students will be assessed in all their subjects and after the Assessment Point they will receive a **Current Grade**, a **Predicted Grade** and a **Target Grade**.

The **Current Grade** is an indication of how your child is performing, currently, against the GCSE marking criteria. It indicates how your child would perform if they were to sit the exam today. This grade is used by teachers to summarise the level of work that your child is currently able to access. Please bear in mind that students are around sixth of the way through their GCSE content (this varies by subject) and, therefore, at this point, high grades (7+) are rare.

The **Predicted Grade** is an estimate (based on classwork, homework and assessments) of how your child will perform in the final GCSE exam next summer (June 2020). If you are concerned about your child's grades then please contact the relevant Head of Department to discuss how we can support your child. Predicted grades are not a guarantee of outcomes: students who work harder in the coming months can expect their grades to rise, those who fail to apply themselves may see their predicted grades fall over time.

The **Target Grade** is the grade that your child should be aiming to achieve at the end of Year 11. This represents expected progress considering your child's starting point in the school. These are aspirational and students will exceed their targets provided they work hard and act on the professional advice that they are given.

Please note that we expect students to have at least 98% attendance. Similarly, we expect every student to complete homework in all subjects when homework is assigned. Poor attendance and non-completion of homework are the two key indicators of underachievement and underperformance.

Should you have any queries or concerns with your child's performance in a particular subject, in the first instance contact the specific subject teacher or the Head of Department.

Accessing Arbor

Arbor is invaluable for parents as it allows you to track the attainment, attendance, behaviour of your child. If you are struggling to access Arbor then please email **arborsupport@hackneynewschool.org** and we will endeavour to ensure that you can login and use the portal. Note that Arbor is not mobile-friendly at this time.



Heads of Department

Head of Art - Ms Andre - oikuomolaandre@hackneynewschool.org @hackneynewschool.org

Acting Head of English - Ms Smith - jacklynsmith@hackneynewschool.org

Ms Joshi is expected to return in May 2019 - minujoshi@hackneynewschool.org

Head of Geography - Mr Ramlall - rathishramlall@hackneynewschool.org

Head of History - Ms Figueira - katherinefigueira@hackneynewschool.org

Head of Mathematics - Ms Newton - lettynewton@hackneynewschool.org

Head of Modern Foreign Languages - Mr Diaz - franciscodiaz@hackneynewschool.org

Director of Music - Ms Barnes - rachelbarnes@hackneynewschool.org

Head of PE - Mr Darragh - stevedarragh@hackneynewschool.org

Acting Head of Religious Studies - Mr Scott - martinscott@hackneynewschool.org

Ms Capelo is expected to return in May 2019 - amycapelo@hackneynewschool.org

Head of Science - Ms McNally - clairemcnally@hackneynewschool.org

Head of Year 10 - Ms Barnes - bettybarnes@hackneynewschool.org

School Money

School Money is the portal through which you can pay for school dinners as well as purchase revision books and equipment. Below is a list of items in the school "shop". If you are unable to login to School Money then please email info@hackneynewschool.org

Item	Price
A Christmas Carol	£2.95
Animal Farm	£5.00
Calculator - Casio FX85GT	£8.50
GCSE Art Packs	£14.00
GCSE Biology Revision Book	£2.50
GCSE Chemistry Revision Book	£2.50
GCSE Physics Revision Book	£2.50
GCSE RE Revision Book	£2.75
Macbeth	£5.00
Maths Higher Guide and Workbook	£5.00
Maths GCSE Higher Textbook - Elmwood	£13.50
Maths KS3 Foundation Guide and Workbook	£5.00
Maths KS3 Higher Guide and Workbook	£5.00
Maths Year 7 Homework Textbook	£18.00
Maths-Mapped Compasses	£1.00
Yr 11 English Grade Booster	£2.00

We very much look forward to helping your daughter/son through Y10 and to achieve academic success.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Li

Headmistress

Hackney New School www.hackneynewschool.org info@hackneynewschool.org

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Assessment Point 1

All students in Year 10 will be completing Assessment Point 1 (AP1) examinations across all subjects from 10th to the 14th December 2018. Following this, students will receive feedback on their performance and work will begin on the next topic. The exams will take place as per the timetable below. Where there are omissions, please speak to the Head of Department.

	Year 10
Mon 10th Dec	Biology 10W History RS exam GCSE Music Solo Performance 10W Art Practical 10X & 10W RSL - Unit 207ta 10 X - Spanish Listening
Tues 11th Dec	Chemistry 10Z History Mathematics Non-Calculator 10Z/Ar and 10Y/Ar Art Practical 10B/RS 10Y RSL - Unit 207ta 10Y - Spanish Listening 10Y and 10Z- French Listening
Weds 12th Dec	English: Animal Farm Mathematics Calculator GCSE Music Solo Performance 10Z and 10Y Art Practical 10X & 10Y RSL - Unit 207ta 10X and 10Y - Spanish Reading 10Z and 10Y - French Reading
Thur 13th Dec	Physics English: Poetry (Love and Relationships) GCSE Music Appraising 10W Art Practical 10W and 10X Geography 10X & 10W RSL - Unit 207ta 10X - Spanish Writing
Fri 14th Dec	English: Unseen Poetry 10Z, 10W and 10Y Art Practical 10Y Geography 10Y & 10W RSL - Unit 207ta 10Y - Spanish Writing 10Z and 10Y - French Writing

We expect students to bring all necessary examination equipment with them in a **clear pencil case**. **Essential equipment includes black pens, pencils, a ruler, a protractor, compasses and an eraser**. Students should also ensure that they have a scientific calculator as the use of a calculator is allowed some **Mathematics and Science exams**.

We want the examinations to be challenging to students and the rigour that they entail will hopefully provide a solid foundation for the demands of GCSE study. It is vital that students prepare for these important examinations in order to gain confidence and knowledge as they move through the extremely important and choice-enhancing years of Key Stage 4 study (GCSE) and ultimately provide them with the results and achievements which can enable them to make the right and informed choices about their future. The exams will also give us a detailed picture of each student's current level of attainment in each subject and the subsequent steps that they need to take in order to make further progress.

During examinations, students will register at the normal time of 8 am in their form bases. During lessons each day, students will sit tests in examination conditions. All students will have opportunities to revise for the tests and ask their subject teachers for advice and guidance in the weeks leading up to and including the examinations.

We continue to value your strong support for our school and we would ask you to take some time to go over this information with your child to ensure that they are fully prepared for the forthcoming examinations.

Key Dates for your Diary

Autumn Term 2018

Saturday 1st December	British Museum Trip
Monday 17th December	Trip to Bletchley Park
Tuesday 18th December	Christmas Concert

Spring Term 2019

Wednesday 23rd January	Bank of England Trip
Thursday 7th February	UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge
Monday 25th March to Friday 29th March	Y10 Assessment Point 2

Summer Term 2019

Monday 1st July - Wednesday 3rd July	Y10 Speaking Mocks
Thursday 4th July - Wednesday 10th July	Y10 Assessment Point 3 - Mock Exams

Term and Holiday Dates for 2018/19

Spring Term 2019

Monday 7th January – Friday 5th April	
Half term	Monday 18th February – Friday 22nd February
Easter Holiday	Monday 8th April – Tuesday 23rd April

Summer Term 2019

Wednesday 24th April – Tuesday 23rd July	
May Bank Holiday	6th May
May Half Term	Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May