



15 October 2025

Dear parent/carer

## **Year 11 Trial Exams**

I am writing to you with important information about the upcoming trial exams for year 11. These are taking place from **Monday 10 November to Monday 24 November, mornings only**. Students will be given this information in upcoming SMSC lessons and also via their tutor. A PowerPoint with key reminders will also be available on Frog.

Subject teachers will be talking to year 11 classes about how and what to revise for the trial exams and this information will also be on Frog. From Tuesday 14 October, all home learning will be specific revision tasks for the trial exams so completion of these is essential for students to be well prepared.

Students will be able to access their individual exam timetable for trial exams via the exams portal. You and your child will receive an email with the link to the portal and login details when this is available. The portal can also be accessed via the exams page on the school website. This individual timetable will include the location and seat number for each exam and it important that students check this every day.

We run trial exams as close as possible to the way the final summer exams are run in May and June. This means there are very high expectations regarding behaviour and conduct. These expectations apply before the exam, when students are waiting to go into the exam rooms, and once they are in the exam rooms themselves. These expectations are a requirement from the Joint Council for Examinations and are there to ensure that all students have the best possible exam experience and do not disadvantage themselves or others. These expectations are clearly explained to students prior to the trial exams and students are reminded of them at the start of each exam. It is of the utmost importance that all students follow all instructions during the trial exams so they are not at risk of malpractice during the summer exams.

In the unlikely event of external exams being cancelled in summer 2026, these trial results could form part of teacher assessed grades, which also means that these high expectations about conduct must be adhered to.

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**It is very important that students arrive each day with the equipment they need for each exam. Please see below for a list of the required equipment.** Please be aware that we will not lend spare equipment to students who come without it. Please be aware that water bottles must be clear and not coloured and they must not have a label on them. Please also note that students are not permitted to take tissues into any exams. Exam staff will have tissues available in every exam room. Students should not be asking to go to the toilet during an exam except in an emergency because of the disturbance it causes to others in the room.


**What you will need:**

- a clear pencil case
- at least two black ink pens – blue pens are not acceptable
- an approved calculator for relevant exams
- appropriate apparatus such as a ruler or protractor for relevant exams
- a clear water bottle if you wish to take one in – it must not have a label



**What you cannot take into exams:**

- any type of phone
- revision notes
- any type of watch (this includes analogue, digital and smart watches)



If you require financial support to purchase any equipment, please contact our finance team on [finance@backwellschool.net](mailto:finance@backwellschool.net)

A list of recommended revision guides is available on the school website. These revision guides have been purchased for students who are in receipt of pupil premium funding.

Many thanks for supporting your child through this important stage of Year 11 and should you have any concerns or further questions, please contact your child's Head of House who will be able to advise. For subject specific queries please contact your child's subject teacher in the first instance.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Clara Mason  
Deputy Headteacher