



11 February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

**Covid-19, Year 9 options, Summer examinations advance information, GL testing, Mock examination arrangements – Years 11 and 13, Parents' evening format in the future, Canteen arrangements**

Welcome to my final weekly letter of this half term. Christmas now seems a lifetime away and this half term has flown by. It has also been a hard slog with challenges to overcome, mainly Covid-driven. Nevertheless, I hope you have found that we have ensured schooling is as normal as possible during testing times. As we approach the break, I could not write without thanking you all for your support, patience and understanding since early January. Please find below my final updates of term 3:

**Covid-19**

We continue to encourage twice weekly testing at home on Wednesdays and Sundays using home LFT kits. This is vital to support us in keeping our academy fully functioning in the winter months whilst infection rates are still higher in the community.

**Year 9 options**

A huge thank you to you all for your support in ensuring Year 9 Options applications have been submitted. Next steps have begun and appointments will be booked in for after half term with the team to counsel and confirm choices. At this time, all proposed courses will run in Year 10.

**Summer examinations advance information**

Advance information from examination boards has been released this week. Subjects are now sharing details with students. I attach an Ofqual postcard which explains the situation. As detailed information has been published by course, examination board and subject we have much detail to wade through. For this reason, I am not adding a full update to this letter but will do so in my first letter after half term once this has been digested.

**GL testing**

The next round of GL Testing begins after half term for Years 7 to 10 with reading age, spelling age and PASS testing around self and school. The latter will also be conducted for Year 11. I encourage students to bring a set of headphones with a 3.5mm jack into school for the first fortnight back to limit the sharing of equipment.

## Mock examination arrangements – Years 11 and 13

Y11 and Y13 mock examination letters with timetables have been sent home this week to give advanced notice of a busy time next half term leading up to Easter. While I expect formal examinations to go ahead this year, we have had enough surprises during the pandemic to know that we need to keep to our contingency arrangements in line with DfE guidance just in case, as well as to ensure that all students are best prepared for a slightly altered summer examination series.

It was great to see 70 youngsters in Year 11 receive a rewards breakfast for their exceptional attitude and performance in mock 1 this week. Hopefully, this gives them impetus to keep up the good work.

## Parents' evening format in the future

In the week where it has been announced that restrictions will come to an end after half term, this is against a backdrop of rising infections. We are also seeing this at SRPA although from a very low starting point. In addition, I have received much feedback about the current arrangements for parents' evenings being very positive and more convenient than coming into the Academy. Please find below a link to give me your thoughts as to how we should arrange these events in future as I remain undecided as to future plans in this regard. I would value your response prior to our return on 21 February so that I may plan for all upcoming events. Thank you. <https://forms.office.com/r/Fim3b21CPp>

## Canteen arrangements

Please see our website under **Parents, Cashless Information & Dining, Our menus and price list** for updated information. I am aware of the feedback on Facebook about our canteen and the food available and have repeatedly offered tours of this facility for those who wish to make their comments known online. So far, no one has taken me up on the offer. Although we are fully compliant with the national school food standards, we will be constantly keeping our menus under review. This will mean that we sell less snack foods, crisps and doughnuts. In addition, we are keeping our costs down despite inflationary pressures which are making this difficult. This is no mean feat in the current climate and at least one of our suppliers has gone out of business due to the pandemic. In short, please bear with us as we strive to keep normal service in place.

As Ovid once said, "Take rest; a field that has rested gives a bountiful crop."

This half term is a time to recharge prior to the Easter run in and to find some time for yourselves amidst the hustle and bustle. Everyone at SRPA wishes you a wonderful half term



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break. We look forward to seeing everyone bright and early on 21 February.

I will write again soon.

Yours faithfully



**Mr D Hardy**  
**Head Teacher**



“This is a calm, happy and caring school.”

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# Additional help for students taking exams in summer 2022

## Changes to coursework

Non-exam assessment and fieldwork requirements adjusted, with flexibility in some subjects.

## Optional content

There will be less content or fewer topics for students to learn in some GCSEs.

## Generous grading

Exams will be graded more generously this year providing a safety net for students.

## Support materials

Students will get formulae and equation sheets in some exams and won't have to memorise as much.

## Advance information

Exam boards will give information on the focus of exams for most subjects to help students revise.

# An unprecedented package of support for students taking exams this year

Summer exams for GCSEs, AS and A levels will be taking place in 2022 for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Ofqual and the Department for Education recognise the difficulties students may have faced during the pandemic, and changes have been made to this year's arrangements to help students.

An unprecedented package of support has been put in place for students. Advance information will help them focus their revision. Exam boards have provided advance information for exams in most subjects. Students will have a choice of topics or content in some other GCSE subjects. Exam boards will also provide a formulae sheet and an updated equation sheet that students will have in their GCSE maths, physics and combined science exams.

This advance information will also help teachers manage revision time in the lead-up to exams. In addition, more generous grading will provide a safety net for students.

Find out more about these changes at the link below.

 [bit.ly/examchanges2022](https://bit.ly/examchanges2022)