



# CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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Dear Parent/Carer

We hope you and your family are well at this time.

We are writing to you signposting the Year 10 Information Event on Thursday 18 November 2021.

This is an online – recorded communication and will share important information about your child's GCSE examinations taking place in the summer of 2022. The event will be available from 6.00pm.

Since 2018, students at Cardinal Newman have taken GCSEs in Year 10, predominantly, in English and Science. Due to COVID we suspended this entry for the summer series 2021.

As things return to 'normal' we will prepare students in Year 10 to take both GCSE Biology and English Language in the summer series 2022.

## **Why take GCSEs in Year 10?**

Since the introduction of new specifications starting in 2018, students have seen a dramatic increase in the number and time duration of the exams. Typically, a Year 11 student would experience approximately 28-30 examination papers ranging from 1½-2 hours each.

We found that students who sat their GCSEs in the summer of Year 10 benefitted, as they were only focussing on one or two subjects, whilst reducing their exams at the end of Year 11.

## **Benefits of grading GCSEs in Year 10**

Grades for the GCSEs taken are issued in August. Previous experience indicates that students can be motivated by their results and this has a positive impact in Year 11.

In the autumn term of Year 11, students begin their applications for apprenticeships, colleges and sixth forms. Being able to demonstrate their 'gained' grade has proven useful in securing their preferred choice.

## **What happens if my child does not perform well?**

Students who do not gain grades that reflect their ability will be able to access the GCSE in Year 11; through previous years indicate this is only a very small minority.

## **What preparation and support is required?**

We have a comprehensive programme of support to ensure that students are well prepared.



This includes:

- Tutor time subject intervention
- After school 'period 6' revision
- Dedicated English and Science preparation days
- Comprehensive assessment and mock programmes

### **SEND Access**

Some students may be entitled to extra time, readers or scribes. Mrs Bevis will be ensuring that students are identified and assessed for access arrangements. If you have any questions, please contact [christine.bevis@cncs.school](mailto:christine.bevis@cncs.school)

### **Important Dates**

Single day preparation – Biology	Wednesday 8 December 2021
Single day preparation – English Language	Friday 10 December 2021
Biology mock examination	Wednesday 12 January 2022
English Language mock examination	Friday 14 January 2022
Spring assessments	Date to be confirmed
<b>GCSE Biology examinations</b>	<b>17 May 2022 AM and 15 June 2022 AM</b>
<b>GCSE English Language examinations</b>	<b>18 May 2022 AM and 10 June 2022 AM</b>

Further information will be available on the school website from 6.00pm on Thursday 18 November including can access to additional information from Mr Poole (Head of Year), Miss Devine (Head of English) and Mrs Shepherd (Head of Science).

Should you have any questions, please contact the school.

Yours faithfully



**Ms E O'Connor**  
**Headteacher**