

MALTON SCHOOL

EXAMS NEWSLETTER



ISSUE 2

January 2005

Year 11 New Year Edition

Welcome to our second exam special, where we address some common issues that occur each year as students approach final exams.

Entry Dates

Students and parents should be aware of particular dates relating to exams

31 January

Initial entries are made for GCSE subjects. Subject leaders check these lists and make amendments if errors are spotted.

Monday 14 February

A special exam assembly to hand out entry lists to students, plus a letter to parents explaining the entry process and its implications.

21 February

Final entry date for all exam boards. Minor amendments (for example to level of entry) can be made without fee until **21st April**. After this a fee is incurred by any changes.

Personal examination timetables giving subject, date and time will be issued to all students in the near future. We recommend these are displayed prominently at home—occasionally we have had to wake students from their slumbers to get them in to their exam!

Part time work

We know that the majority of our Year 11 students engage in some part-time work. This gives students some spending money, independence, and work experience. We do not see this necessarily as a problem: it need not clash with study, or with revision and preparation for final GCSE's, providing the time commitment is moderate. Our advice is:

- It should never be used as an excuse for non-completion of work, absence or lateness.
- It should form part of a planned approach to work and study.
- It should not increase at half term, and certainly not at Easter.
- As we approach exams, it is worth considering reducing part-time work commitments.

An unusual term

Easter is particularly early this year, and this gives us one of our shortest terms ever.

A reminder:

Mon 7-11 February 2005 - Half term

Friday 18 March. Staff day and start of Easter vacation for student

Monday 4 April – start of summer term.

The build up to exams

GCSE exams will start on Friday 20 May, with Citizenship.

If we work backwards from here there are six school weeks after Easter, 11 weeks after half term, and 14 weeks from now.

Study Leave

We anticipate study leave being granted from Friday 26 May. A special revision timetable related to the exam timetable will commence on Thursday 18 May. Full details in our next exam newsletter.

School Leaving date.

Students are not legally permitted to leave school until the last Friday in June. This is 24th June this year, and coincides with the final GCSE exam.

Students need to consider starting a revision programme early—a little before the Easter holidays. They should make full use of this “holiday”, and plan when and what to revise, and

Family Holidays

We always encourage families to arrange their holidays during the long periods of official school holidays, rather than in school term time.

This is particularly true in these final months leading up to the exams. We were amazed and disappointed last year when some families took holidays in the summer term, very close to GCSE exams. Please give them the best opportunity to be well-prepared for these final exams.

Countdown

Week	⌚
7 Mar	-12
14	-11
21	Easter
28	Easter
4 Apr	-10
11	-9
18	-8
25	-7
2 May	-6
9	-5
16	-4
19	1st exam
23	-3 Exams
30	Half term
6 June	-2 Exams
13	-1 Exams
20	Exams
24	END!

Coursework.

Coursework will be all but complete by the end of this term. There may be opportunity in some subjects for minor improvements after Easter.

The final date for submission of marks to the exam boards are: AQA and EDEXCEL 30 April 2005
OCR 15 May 2005

It is important to realise that these are final submission dates. To meet them, teachers must mark work in advance, and in many departments teachers have to moderate their marking. Hence internal deadlines for completion and submission of coursework. In some

Art: Terminal Test: Completed final piece worksheets and sketchbook by *Friday, 22 April*.

Business Studies Approximately 8 coursework lessons plus homework left. Deadline *Wednesday, 16 March*

Citizenship Both pieces of coursework complete (apart from absentees). Students may re-write to improve their grade - deadline *Friday 16 March*

DT: Food/Textiles Good progress so far. Students are now working on the development of a final solution to their task. Final deadline *Friday 18 February*.

DT:Graphics Varied progress to date reflecting student motivation. Projects need to be completed by *4 April*

English: Folders (of five pieces of work) close to completion, though they may be given time to improve or substitute work. Folders must be finalised by *16 March*.

French The 2nd assignment will be completed by *Friday 4 February* and the final piece by *Thursday 10 March*.

Geography Written report on a mining project in the Amazon rainforest just started. Completed in class, but students with good coursework records may add to this in their own time. Deadline *Thursday 3 February*.

History Final assignment—an investigation of the success or failure of Haig's leadership in the Battle of the Somme 1916. Deadline *Wednesday 16 March*.

ICT Board Set assignment complete. Main section of 2nd project - deadline *16 March*. User Guide and Evaluation for this project by *Friday 15 April*.

Maths: Finishing touches to the two pieces of coursework. Deadline *18 February*.

Music composition coursework well on the way, with most students having started their second and final piece. Deadline *Friday 16 March*

PE GCSE Personal Exercise Plan—final deadline *31 January*. Practical assessments are due in *April*.

Science All coursework complete (apart from absentees).

Coursework contributes a vital proportion of the final grade, so must be completed to the best of a student's ability for them to achieve their full potential

ICT Skills Qualifications

One morning has already been committed to allowing all students to gain an ICT qualification. This is either Key Skills Level 2, or CLAIT (Computer Literacy and Information Technology)

School events

**Leavers prom
Easter shows
Involvement without excuses**

Jargon buster: **Current grade** – based on the mark in the mock exam, together with any coursework or module tests already assessed, a grade *ABCDEFGH is awarded according to GCSE standards

Projected grade – what staff expect can be achieved with continued hard work, and progress similar to that achieved by students in the past. Split grades may be used to indicate borderline cases.

Note – this improvement cannot be expected to just happen automatically– it needs working for

A motivational cartoon

Coursework detentions

These may sound like punishments, but are really a teacher's way of saying that a student has not fulfilled their potential, and is being given a chance to do so. They are intended as a way of helping students who have difficulty organising themselves.

Coursework—how can parents help?

You cannot do the work for someone, but you can offer support, suggestions and advice

- Ask your son or daughter what coursework remains to be completed, and how it is progressing.
- When are the deadlines?
- Are there any problems meeting these?
- Help with planning to avoid bottlenecks in work when two or three deadlines coincide.
- Have they responded to feedback from their teachers?

