

GCSE EXAMINATIONS

When our students begin Year 10, they start their two year preparation for GCSE Examinations.

These exams are sat at the end of Year 11 during May and June. In some subjects there are Controlled Assessments, which can form up to 60% of the total mark, these are timetabled by departments to fit in with their schedule of teaching.

Parents and pupils should be aware that *teacher* assessment of progress will take place *throughout* the School year. The Upper School has long established examination courses for the full range of qualifying subjects. In our planning, we work closely with 16+ providers in order to ensure that the academic programme, which we offer, provides the necessary and sufficient background for those who will then go on to Advanced Level or enrol for GNVQ/NVQ's.

The School pays GCSE examination fees. Where any pupil entered for an examination with the parent's consent fails, without good reason, to sit the examination, the parents will be required to pay the fee for the examination. There are two opportunities for parents to learn more about examinations: Y10 when we supply you with an up-to-date GCSE Course Guidebook and in Year 11, prior to the completion of examination entries.

TERMLY EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

There is a broad range of activities on offer. Each lunch-time, the library and computer suite are available for student use, supervised by the librarian and other members of staff.

The staff run a wide range of sporting, musical and design based activities at lunchtime with the mix being different each term. Each term we print the clubs and activities that are available and they are on display in the tutor rooms.

We have a good tradition of providing extra-curricular activities, through Creative Partnerships and the School Sports Partnership. We are running a host of activities, which include:

- The Duke of Edinburgh Award,
- The Junior Sports Leadership Award (JSLA),
- Sports Clubs ranging from Rugby, Football, Hockey, Netball, Basketball, Athletics, Cricket, Judo etc.
- Percussion Ensemble,
- Choirs.

If a request for a "*voluntary contribution*" causes financial difficulty, please don't hesitate to drop a note to the school.

We have an outward bound residential on the north coast (Year 9), a ski trip to Europe (open to all) and a 3 day Surf School as part of our annual Activities Week. Year 7's have the opportunity of visiting the Forest of Dean during Activities Week.