

## Year 10 - Exams September 2016

LNE

22<sup>nd</sup> July 2016

Dear Parent/Carers,

Many of the students, in Year 10, have done fabulously well in their recent end of year exams, and Year 11 is just around the corner. In the first week of the new term, your child will therefore be sitting their first set of trial exams (full GCSE papers) during their first lesson, in each subject.

In many subjects, the exam will be a repeat of the paper taken at the end of Year 10. Your child will have been addressing the errors from their exam papers during lessons and must continue to work on these during the six week break. The assessment in September, will allow your child to see if they have understood and fixed any gaps in understanding.

In order to help your child to further close the gaps before sitting these papers, we will be publishing the year group's 'Strengths and areas to improve sheets' from the recent exams on our website. A mock-up from Science is shown below:

Name		1) Forces	2) Gravity	3) Momentum	4) Planets
	<b>Max no of marks</b>	2	5	3	2
<b>Jo Bloggs</b>					
<b>Susan Fish</b>					
<b>Bobby Ewing</b>					

The 'Strengths and areas to improve sheets' do not contain any scores. A green cell means that the student has mastered this topic. An amber cell means the student only partly understands the topic and the red means they have little or no understanding of the topic, or simply have not covered the topic in the curriculum. Students are advised to focus firstly on the amber cells before the red cells as these are easier to convert to green.

Our outgoing Year 11's routinely used this information in class to help create a personalised programme to close the gaps. The students (and some parents) have told us that they would like to have these available at home so that they can work on the gaps outside of lesson time. This is great to hear as it shows that more and more of our students are becoming independent learners. Providing the information also gives you, as parents a way to support your child by:

- Understanding which topics they do and do not understand
- Helping them to address these issues by directing them to their revision guides or the relevant websites.

We suggest that you encourage your child to display his or her Strengths and Areas to improve sheets somewhere public at home and choose three gaps, per day, to improve (AMBERS first then REDS).

You can find the sheets at: <http://abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/index.php/weekly-updates/year-10-revision-data.section> on the school website.

We hope you take this opportunity (and the subsequent ones following each assessment) to get your child into good habits outside of the classroom; it will help him or her to add at least 2 grades to every GCSE outcome at the end of year 11. Please remember, that your child can attend a subject specific Interact club or Homework club in September, if you feel that they need additional support.

Yours Sincerely,



Dr Newman  
Deputy Headteacher

