

10 May 2024

Dear parents and carers,

Exam season got underway this week.

Most Year 10s did their first GCSE paper this week, with RS Paper 1 taking place on Thursday. They were truly impressive in their attitude towards the exam and how they conducted themselves in the formal exam setting.

The full suite of Year 11 written GCSE exams got underway on Thursday afternoon with those that took Drama GCSE as an option, and then the whole cohort sitting their Biology GCSE Paper 1 today, Friday. Well done to them for their conduct and commitment as they embark on several weeks of exams.

If you have not seen the *Big Send Off* for Year 11 on our Facebook page from last week, please look and see this heart-warming annual event in school life.

Last week's letter was all about examinations, and today I want to say something about that in the wider context of school life. Exams and assessments are just *one* part of so much more that happens in school over five years. They are important, but grades do not *define* your child. They are so much more than that.

Our aspirations for your child are rooted in high expectations and ambitions for the child they are and the adult they aspire to grow into and contribute successfully to the world they will live in.

I make no apology for the daily press on attendance, punctuality, excellent behaviour, work ethic, kindness, working together, looking out for one another, and asking each child to be the best they can be – their personal best.

Our school values of *caring, learning and succeeding* (in that order) are central to how we nurture and develop your child in school so that they leave at age 16 ready for the world ahead of them.

School is about one third of their time, and two thirds is with you as parents and outside of school.

So, please continue to work closely with us so that your child learns how to work hard, be kind and make no excuses.

Thank you for all you do, so that each day we take a further step forward to those goals, which we have seen come to fruition, in part, in our Year 10s and Year 11s this week.

Yours faithfully,

Kieran Larkin
Headteacher

CARING, LEARNING AND SUCCEEDING