



Year 11 Curriculum Update

November 2022

Year 11 Key Dates 2022/23

Date	Event
Tuesday 1 st November 2022	Year 11 Curriculum and Exam Preparation Evening
Monday 7 th November 2022	Year 11 after-school revision/intervention begins
Monday 14 th November 2022	Year 11 Careers Fair (during school day)
Wed 16 th Nov – Wed 30 th Nov 2022	Mock Exams (Written)
Thur 1 st Dec – Thur 8 th Dec 2022	Mock Exams (Spanish 'Speaking' and Art, Art Fashion & GCSE PE practicals)
Wednesday 4 th January 2023	Mock Exam Results and Assembly
Jan 2023 (Exact dates TBC)	Year 11 'Subject Reports' sent home
Thursday 2 nd February 2023	Year 11 Parents Evening
Monday 15 th May 2023 (provisional)	GCSE Exams start
Tuesday 20 th June 2023 (provisional)	Last scheduled GCSE Exam
Friday 30 th June 2023	Year 11 Prom (Ramside Hall)
Thursday 24 th August 2023	GCSE Exam Results Day
Ongoing throughout 2022/23	One-to-one meetings with our careers advisor to discuss and support Post-16 options
Wednesday mornings (ongoing)	Presentations to pupils from Post-16 Providers

Year 11 Curriculum Plans & Progress

Our website has lots of curriculum information, including copies of 'Long Term Plans' for all subjects [[LINK](#)] so that you and your child can see key aspects of each course.

We will be sending home a summary of your child's progress and attitude to learning for each subject they study via a termly 'Progress Report'. We have a dedicated email address should you have any queries about the curriculum or your child's progress [Y11Progress@venerablebede.co.uk]. In your email, please clearly state the name of your child, give a brief outline of your query and the subject it relates to – this will help us to forward your email to the most appropriate member(s) of staff.

Year 11 Parents Evening & Subject Reports

We have scheduled Year 11 Parents Evening and Year 11 Subject Reports during the Spring term of 2022/23 to try to ensure timely communication of the outcomes of mock exams and their analysis and to allow pupils time to act on any advice ahead of the final examinations in the Summer term.

Year 11 Exams Summer 2023: Ofqual Update

You may have seen headlines on 29 September regarding decisions that have been made about exams in summer 2023. The government, the exams regulator Ofqual and the exam boards have confirmed the following:

- At a national level, grades will be in line with grades in 2019. This was always likely to be the case this year, after a one-year transition year when exams returned in 2022.
- However, there will be a safety net to ensure that, nationally, grades are not lower than they were in 2019. This means that, generally speaking, pupils have the same chance of getting a grade 9 or 5 at GCSE, as in 2019.
- Exams in vocational and technical qualifications e.g. BTEC courses will also return to a 2019 grade profile.
- **Formula sheets will be provided in the GCSE maths, physics and combined sciences exams**, meaning that pupils will not need to memorise these formulae or equations.
- The other adaptations that were in place for 2022 are **not** due to continue into the 2023 summer exam series. Advanced information about where to focus revision, which was provided in 2022, will also **not** be provided in 2023. **Pupils will need to learn and revise the whole specification as normal. Any topic could come up in the exam.**
- If a pupil has studied the whole course but is ill during the exam period, they may be able to receive a grade by sitting one paper in the qualification rather than the previous rule of 25% of the assessment, although certification of illness will be needed.
- The **exam boards are currently consulting on the exam timetable**, (hence provisional dates shown above). In most qualifications, there is at least a week between the first and last exam paper to ensure that if pupils are ill for one paper, they are able to sit another.

They are also consulting on what contingency arrangements to take this year in case exams are cancelled in summer 2023. Unlike last year, there is not an expectation that schools collect evidence at three points throughout the year. When a decision, about a contingency plan, is made by government, we will confirm what work, if any, would be used if exams are cancelled and ensure that you and your child are provided with the information you will need.

How can my child best prepare for exams next summer?

The best way of getting ready for next summer's exams is simple: full attendance; trying hard every day; completing all classwork and homework; revising regularly; acting on feedback and marking from teachers; and reading around their subjects or asking for extension work.

Every teacher at Venerable Bede CE Academy will be able to advise your child on what makes a successful pupil of their subject and will be happy to discuss this with you.

What if I or my child has been particularly affected by Covid-19?

There is no current provision to give a different grade if a pupil has been particularly affected by Covid. The best thing pupils can do is to catch up with any learning they may have lost, and to talk to their teachers about any aspects of the subject they don't understand or may have misconceptions about.

Pupils and teachers are no longer encouraged to test themselves for Covid. If pupils have symptoms, they are encouraged to isolate for three days (five days for teachers), so the impact of any Covid-related illness is likely to be a week at most.

Pupils may be able to receive special consideration if they are ill for one or more exam in the summer, **but they must have studied the whole course to be eligible for this.**