



Notre Dame
Catholic College

Established 1869

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Our Ref: FH/JB/24

30th November 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Whole School Exams

I am writing to update you on the arrangements for our whole school exams. These were penciled in to take place next week but have now been moved to week beginning Monday 9th January.

Why have we changed the dates?

We have changed the dates for several reasons:-

- The new GCSE and 'A' level specifications have led to an increase in the number of exams students have to sit, so more days are required to fit the exams in and the exam halls were unavailable to do this in December.
- The original date left the students with two weeks before the Christmas break, with the potential for important teaching time to be wasted.
- We are back in school very late this year after Christmas (9th January) and this provides an opportunity for students to revise.
- We have identified that, for many students, independent study is a skill they lack and this provides us with an opportunity to develop that skill.
- For some subjects that have fewer lessons it provides more time to cover further content which could be examined.
- For KS4 and sixth form students it allows us to give a more realistic 'mock' of what they will face in the summer.

When will the exams take place?

We are proposing that the exams will start for all students on Monday 9th January taking up the full week and, if required, can spill over into the second week. A confirmed exam timetable will be provided to all students before the end of term.

Revision

Obviously we want students and their families to enjoy the very important feast of Christmas, however the late return after the holidays does provide an opportunity for study. All students will be provided with appropriate revision materials before the end of term which they should use in preparation for these exams.

I hope this letter explains the situation clearly. Students have already been informed but I thought it important to ensure parents/carers were also kept abreast of the changes and reason for the changes.

I thank you again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Rannard
Acting Headteacher