Kings Langley School

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13th November 2026

Year 11 Trial Examinations: 30th November – 17th December 2026

Dear Year 11 Students, Parents and Carers

We are writing to provide you with further information about the trial GCSE examinations that Year 11 students will be sitting at the end of this term, between Monday 30th November and Thursday 17th December. Paper copies of the exam timetable have been issued to students and it is also available on the school website.

You will see from the exam timetable that we have listened to feedback from students and parents, and have made a number of changes to ensure the exam fortnight is as manageable as possible. These include reducing the likelihood of students having three exams in one day and ensuring that students, including those who have extra time in exams, have their full time for break or lunch between exams.

Please note that there have been some changes to the version shared with parents at the revision evening.

These trial exams are an important opportunity for teachers to monitor students' progress towards their target grades. They will also provide students and their parents and carers with a realistic indication of the grades they are currently working at and identify areas in which students can improve in preparation for their final GCSE exams in the summer.

- In addition to the written exams:
  - Trial speaking exams for French and Spanish will be taking place during the trial exam period, on Monday 30th November, Tuesday 1st December and Wednesday 2nd December. Students will be notified of their individual exam times.
  - A trial Art exam will also take place during the exam fortnight and this will take place on Wednesday 2nd December and Tuesday 8th December. This is a two-day exam and therefore all students are involved on both days.
- For Maths, Science and French/Spanish, the trial exams will inform decisions about whether students will be entered for Higher or Foundation tier papers in the final GCSE exams.
- The trial exams will also give students experience of the exam procedures that will be in place for their final GCSE exams next summer. Strict exam conditions will be in place to ensure that students are fully prepared for the standards required in their actual GCSE exams. A reminder of these rules will be shared in an assembly and during form times ahead of the first trial exam to ensure that students are familiar and clear about the exam regulations, and these are attached for parents' information: https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2026/08/IFC-Written_Examinations_2026_FINAL.pdf
- The trial exams will take place in the Sports Hall except for the Art exam, the French and Spanish listening exams and the Music exam, and for some students identified by the Learning Support Department who will complete their exams in a separate venue.
- As you will see from the exam timetable, there will be one, two or three trial exams taking place each day; however, as some of these exams are in the option subjects, students will need to look closely at the timetable to work out their own personal schedule, as they will not be sitting every exam.

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- When students do not have a trial exam, they will attend their normal timetabled lessons and should therefore also bring any equipment necessary for those lessons.

It is essential that students take these examinations seriously; prepare carefully for them using the guidance and revision resources provided by their teachers; and complete them to the best of their ability. Please support your child by encouraging them to get enough sleep, eat a proper breakfast and be fully equipped; and, at school, to be ready to enter the exam venue at their regular start time of 8.25am.

Thank you very much for your continued support as we work together to help Year 11 reach their full potential in the summer GCSE examinations. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries about the trial exams or any other aspect of Year 11 or GCSEs.

Kind regards

Mrs L Sudbery
Deputy Headteacher

Mrs C Ralph-Day
Examinations Officer

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