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Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope that you and your families are well. It is difficult to predict at the moment exactly what is going to happen to external exams and assessments over the course of this year. But whatever the government decides regarding examinations or teacher assessed grades, the Maths and Science exams being sat next in January are extremely important in making sure your child is sitting the correct tiered paper. Sitting the correct paper is vital in terms of your child's success and can be the difference between a Grade 4 and a U Grade.

#### Maths:

To ensure our students have the best chance to demonstrate improvement and are also entered for the correct tiers, the maths department is following a personalised approach. On Monday the 11th of January, students will spend two hours in the exam hall (periods 1&2):

- Students who haven't performed in line with expectation will resit a paper from their current tier of entry. Please note, students on Higher tier must continue to prove their suitability for this paper.
- Students who have performed well on the foundation paper will have the opportunity to sit a Higher one to see if they could move up tiers.
- Students who have performed as we expect, will spend the time doing additional practice work on maths topics that still require improvement.

A small group of higher students will receive an additional booster in a classroom to target the highest grades.

Materials will be available on Microsoft TEAMS and distributed to students on the last day of term to help them prepare for their tasks.

#### Science:

The combined science GCSE is made up of 6 different exam papers (2 x Biology, 2 x Chemistry, 2 x Physics). All students have already completed mock exams in the first three papers during December. The final three mock exams will be spaced out next year with the first being sat on **Thursday 14th January at 8:30am**. This will be **Physics Paper 2** which includes topics on Forces, Waves and Magnetism. The tier (level of difficulty) students are entered for will depend on how well they have done in the first set of exams:



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- Most students will have to continue to prove their suitability on the current tier of entry.
- A small number of students who have performed particularly well on the foundation paper will have the opportunity to sit a higher tier exam to see if they could move up tiers.
- Students who have found the higher paper difficult will have the opportunity to sit a Foundation tier exam to see if it is more suitable and allows them to achieve a better grade.
- A practice exam paper will be available on Microsoft TEAMS and paper copies distributed to students before the last day of term to help them prepare for this mock exam.

These exams are extremely important and would like to ask for your support to encourage your child to use the holidays to reflect and revise in preparation of these exams. Your child will be aware of topics that could come up on the exam papers and should plan their time effectively to cover all areas. Once tiers of entry have been confirmed after these exams, there will be no changing tiers. This is an excellent opportunity for your child to show off their knowledge and secure the grades they deserve.

If you need any help or support with the revision process please contact Miss Hawkins  
[nhawkins@thehalifaxacademy.org](mailto:nhawkins@thehalifaxacademy.org)

Kind Regards

Natalie Hawkins  
Progress Leader Year 11