



Date: 25th April 2011

Dear Parent,

In the Middle School we hold annual examinations in most subjects. The internal examinations are formal assessments that measure what all children can do when they are asked the same questions. For all Middle School students examinations will be conducted for English, Geography, History, Languages, Mathematics and Science. Those subjects that are not tested are practical subjects within which an assessment task is better carried out over a few weeks or intermittently throughout the year.

Most examinations will take place during Week 8 (Tues 24th May – Fri 27th May) for students in Years 6 to 8. The testing of mental arithmetic skills will be done in class prior to Week 8 for all students and students in Year 6 will complete their Humanities exam at another time. A more detailed timetable for the examinations will be sent home with your child but it can also be obtained through the website (Parents/School Documents/Middle School Document Area/Exam Timetable). After listening to suggestions from parents and teachers, we now use four days rather than three. The intensity of exams is demanding for some students and we feel that the afternoons would be better spent on non-academic pursuits such as House events like Middle School Cross-Country. This should help to provide a healthy balance at an academically challenging time.

The purpose of the examinations is to provide staff, students and parents with information about the extent and quality of learning. Such feedback will identify areas of strength and weakness in each subject. Students will also gain experience of working under examination conditions and practise answering the type of questions set in external examinations. Such familiarity will improve examination techniques. The scripts will be returned and discussed with each individual in class.

The examinations will act as only one piece of assessment amongst many others that have been completed during the academic year. All the assessment tasks will contribute to the end of year course grade which will be recorded on the final report.

Students who have enrolled during the academic year may sit a specially prepared examination or they may sit the same examination as other students in their year group. Subject teachers will explain to students the policy adopted by their faculty.

Students can expect teachers to tell them what the format and content of the paper will be in each subject. Teachers may also provide students with some examples of questions that are similar to those that they will have in their examination because the more familiar your child is with a test, the less fearful they will be.

One of the key strategies for successful learning is to break subjects down into small sections. A guide on how best to revise in preparation for the examinations is available on the website (Parents/School Documents/Middle School Document Area/Guidelines for Revision).

I trust the nature of the internal examinations in the Middle School is clear. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions concerning the administration or purpose of the examinations.

Ian Mehta
Head of Middle School