



# The Henry Cort Community College

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Our ref: RRW/VLE

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Dear Parents/Carers

## **Year 8 Centralised Assessment Day**

As part of our assessment calendar, we wish for all our students to experience working in formal examination conditions, within the Sports Hall in different years. This process and exposure allows students to understand how it feels to sit a GCSE exam, what it is like to work in that setting and to build resilience in the preparation for final GCSE examinations. With this in mind, we will be running a Maths and English assessment on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

The schedule for this is that at 8:45am, at the start of Period 1, students will line up in their English sets, where they would normally line up for assembly. They will silently enter the Cort Theatre where they will receive a gentle explanation about exam expectations. They will then, by class, drop their bags into the Cort Hub area (which will be locked during their assessment), and make their way to the Sports Hall. Students will then sit in exam conditions and complete a 60-minute paper in English.

Once the assessment is complete, students will return to the Cort Theatre, in groups to collect their bags, and then be released to return to their Period 2 lesson, or straight to break depending on the time that it has taken.

After morning break, students will return to line up in their Maths sets, where they would normally line up for assembly. We will repeat the same process as above, but with a Maths 60-minute paper. Once complete students will return to either Period 4 or straight to lunch. This approach is a very similar process to the main examinations in Key Stage 4, and we feel that students really benefit from experiencing this in lower years. This also builds on the single assessment experience that students went through in Year 7.

The continuing purpose is to create a familiar exam culture for all students as they continue through the school to help fully prepare them for formal external examinations. We are, this time, providing an element of guidance to allow students the opportunity to prepare. The outcome of the two assessments will be used to identify areas for improvement and to capture an understanding of how well students have retained the content taught this year.

Guidance:

### ***Mathematics Examination***

*This assessment will cover the topics studied so far this academic year: **Ratio, Proportion and Scale**, and **Algebraic Manipulation**. The exam is a 60-minute paper. To support students in their preparation, we will go through a practice paper during lessons that focuses on these areas.*

**ASPIRE**

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A copy of the practice paper will also be shared via **EduLink** for additional revision at home. Students are encouraged to take their exercise books home for further study (please ensure they are returned for lessons) and to continue using **Sparx Maths** as a revision tool. For additional guidance, the website [Corbett Maths](#) provides excellent instructional videos and resources to reinforce understanding.

### **English Examination**

*In this exam experience, students will need to use their knowledge from the unit they have been studying this term: **Voices for Change**. Students will write a persuasive speech using the devices, format and skills that have been covered this term.*

Students will receive a lesson over the coming weeks during their Maths and English lessons guiding them on their examination and working through retrieval practices.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Walker  
Assistant Principal