King Edward VI Academy

Broadening Horizons

Part of the David Ross Education Trust

Broadening Horizons

PARENT/CARER EXAM INFORMATION HANDBOOK

Effective from 1 September 2026

Welcome

Dear Parent/Carer,

Examinations can feel like a significant milestone, not only for students but also for their families. It's completely natural to have questions about what lies ahead and how best to support your child during this important stage of their education.

At King Edward VI Academy, we believe that examinations are not simply about grades. They are an opportunity for students to demonstrate the knowledge, skills and resilience they have developed throughout their learning journey. Every student is different, and every pathway to success is unique.

The most powerful support a young person can receive is encouragement from the adults around them. By working together, home and school can help students feel calm, confident and prepared for the challenges ahead.

This booklet outlines the key stages of the examination process and offers practical advice to help you support your child throughout the year.

Teachers, pastoral staff, senior leaders and the Exams Team are all here to help.

The Examination Journey at a Glance

Term	What Happens
Autumn Term	Preparation, exam entries
Autumn/Winter Term	Mock examinations 5th October 2026
Spring Term	Final Mock examinations 11th January 2027, interventions and revision support Exam entries submitted, Coursework Marks submitted
Summer Term	GCSE, V Cert and vocational examinations
August	Results Day 19th August and post-results services 19th August to 23rd September
October/November	Certificates Collection

Autumn Term

During this term:

- Examination entries begin to be planned.
- Students receive key information about assessments.
- Coursework and controlled assessments may commence.
- Access Arrangements are reviewed where appropriate.
- Revision skills and study techniques are introduced.

How Parents Can Help

- Encourage excellent attendance and punctuality.
- Establish a regular homework routine.
- Take an interest in what your child is studying.
- Celebrate effort and commitment.
- Help create a positive attitude towards learning.
- Revision timetable – embed good habits

Remember

Small, consistent efforts each day are far more effective than last-minute revision later in the year.

Coursework, Controlled Assessment

Subject	Assessment	Deadline / Exam Date	Notes
English Language	Spoken Language Endorsement	Completed in Y10	Internal assessment Submitted 7th May 2027
French	Speaking Examination	Between 12th April to 21st May - TBA	Conducted in school Submitted 24th May
Art & Design	Portfolio Submission	Spring /Summer Term	Internal assessment Internally assessed/Marked Externally Moderated
Art & Design	Final Exam / Controlled Assessment	10 hours supervised assessment TBA	Internally assessed/Marked Externally Moderated Marks submitted 31st May
Design & Technology	NEA Submission	Marks submitted 15th May	Internally assessed/Marked Externally Moderated
Engineering	NEA Submission	Marks submitted 30th April	Internally assessed/Marked Externally Moderated

Music	Performance Recording	Internal deadline set by music department Marks submitted 15th May	Students' complete performance and composition
BTEC Sport BTEC Health & Social Care BTEC Travel & Tourism BTEC Performing Arts	Component 1 Component 2	January Series December 15th	Pearson Internal assessment These dates are the deadline for submission
		June Series May 15th	
BTEC Sport BTEC Health & Social Care BTEC Travel & Tourism BTEC Performing Arts	Component 3 Final unit	See Summer exam Timetable	External Assessment

Winter Term

Mock Examinations

Mock examinations are an important part of preparation.

Although students often feel nervous, mock exams provide valuable experience in formal examination conditions and help students understand where they are succeeding and where additional support may be needed.

Why Mock Exams Matter

They help students:

- Practise examination techniques.
- Build confidence.
- Improve time management.
- Experience examination conditions.
- Identify strengths and areas for development.

The following page shows our next mock exam session timetable

Mock Exams Starting 5th October 2026

Week 1	Monday 05/10/26	Tuesday 06/10/26	Wednesday 07/10/26	Thursday 08/10/26	Friday 09/10/26
Session 1 9.00am Meet in Gino's at 8.45	English Literature 1 hr 45 mins	RE 1 hr 45 mins French Writing (H) 1 hr 15 mins (F) 1 hr 5 mins	Maths P1 1 hr 30 mins	DT 1 hr 45 mins Engineering 1 hr 30 mins	Maths P2 1 hr 30 mins
Session 2 13.15pm Meet in Gino's after Lunch	History 1 hr French Reading (H) 1 hr (F) 45 mins	Biology 1 hr 15 mins	Geography 1 hr	Chemistry 1 hr 15 mins	Music 1 hr 15 mins
Week 2	**Monday 12/10/26**	**Tuesday 13/10/26**	**Wednesday 14/10/26**	**Thursday 15/10/26**	**Friday 16/10/26**
Session 1 9.00am Meet in Gino's at 8.45	English Language 1 hr 45 mins	Physics 1 hr 15 mins	Contingency		
Session 2 13.15pm Meet in Gino's after Lunch	Contingency	Contingency			

LUNCH AND PERIOD 6

Please support your child by asking which sessions they will attend each day

Lunch	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Subject	Sport	H&S and T&T		H&S and T&T	Music
Name	CEV	CEYRE		CEYRE	AADA
Room	ICT2	ICT1		ICT1	Spine
Period 6	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Subject	English Lang	Maths	Geography	H&S and T&T	
Name	AKS /JMU	LMI	NHE/JRE	CEYR	
Room	E1	M2	H4	ICT1	
Subject	Sport		French	RS	
Name	CEV		LREV	SLO	
Room	ICT2		L1	H2	
Subject	History			Art	
Name	DWIL			CWA	
Room	H3			A1	
Subject	Maths			Science	
Name	LMI			Sci Team	
Room	M2			Science Rooms	

Y11 CHECKPOINT INFORMATION

Subject	Name of paper	Length of Assessment	Content	Revision Links
Science	Biology Paper 1	1h15m	Cells, organisation, infection and response, bioenergetics	https://shorturl.at/jrWuy
Science	Chemistry Paper 1	1h15m	Atomic structure, structure and bonding, quantitative chemistry, chemical changes, energy changes	
Science	Physics Paper 1	1h15m	Energy, electricity, particle model of matter, atomic structure	
Maths	Paper 1	1h30m	All topics	http://sparxmaths.com
Maths	Paper 2	1h30m		
History	Germany paper	1hr	All topics	Exercise books and KO
RS	RS paper 2	1hr 45mins	Religion, Families & Relationships, Religion & Life, Crime & Punishment, War & Peace	Exercise books and KO
Geography	Paper 1 (edited)	1hr	Ecosystems (Tropical Rainforest, Hot desert), Rivers and Coasts	Exercise books and KO
French	Reading	1hr		Exercise books and KO
French	Writing	1 hr 15 mins		Exercise books and KO
English	Literature	1 hours 20 mins	Power and Conflict Poetry & Unseen Poetry	Poetry Exercise Book
English	Language	1 hour	Language Paper 2 Section A	Language Exercise ook
Music	Appraising	1 hour 15	All areas of study	Bitesize / knowledge organisers / exercise books

Spring Term

Reflecting and Preparing

Following mock examinations, staff work closely with students to review progress and provide targeted support.

Many students make significant improvements between mock examinations and final assessments; However, this improvement does not happen automatically. Success comes from students carefully analysing their mock examination performance, identifying gaps in their knowledge and skills, and actively working to address these areas. With focused revision, regular practice, and support from teachers, students can make substantial progress before their final examinations.

During this Term

- Teachers analyse progress.
- Revision programmes are intensified.
- Intervention sessions may be offered.
- Final examination entries are confirmed.
- Additional support is provided where needed.

Summer Term

Examination Season

For many students, this is the period they have been working towards all year.

While some nerves are completely normal, preparation and routine can significantly reduce anxiety.

Before Each Examination

Students should:

- Arrive in good time.
- Bring all required equipment.
- Check the date and time carefully.
- Wear correct uniform where applicable.

Listen carefully to instructions from invigilators

Contingency Day – 23rd June 2027

All students are required to be available until, and including up to and including 23rd June 2027, the designated contingency day for examinations should national or significant local disruption to examinations occur within the United Kingdom.

Exam Date	Exam Series	Exam Board	Qualification	Exam Code	Subject	Title	Exam Time	Exam Duration
05/05/2027	Summer-27	Pearson	BTEC Tech Awards	BHS03/01	Health and Social Care	Health and Wellbeing	AM	2h
05/05/2027	Summer-27	Pearson	BTEC Tech Awards	BTT03/01	Travel and Tourism	Influences on Global Travel and Tourism	PM	2h
06/05/2027	Summer-27	Pearson	BTEC Tech Awards	BSP03/01	Sport	Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants Performance in Sport and Physical Activity	AM	1h 30m
11/05/2027	Summer-27	AQA	GCSE	8464/B/1F and 1H	Combined Science: Trilogy	Combined Science: Trilogy - Biology Paper 1 (both tiers)	AM	1h 15m
12/05/2027	Summer-27	AQA	GCSE	8702/1	English Literature	English Literature Paper 1	AM	1h 45m
13/05/2027	Summer-27	AQA	GCSE	8062/ 11-17	Religious Studies A	Religious Studies A Paper 1	AM	1h 45m
14/05/2027	Summer-27	AQA	GCSE	8300/1F and 1H	Mathematics	Mathematics Paper 1 (non - calculator) (both tiers)	AM	1h 30m
17/05/2027	Summer-27	AQA	GCSE	8464/C/1F and 1H	Combined Science: Trilogy	Combined Science: Trilogy - Chemistry Paper 1 (both tiers)	AM	1h 15m
18/05/2027	Summer-27	AQA	GCSE	8035/1	Geography	Geography Paper 1	AM	1h 30m
19/05/2027	Summer-27	AQA	GCSE	8702/2	English Literature	English Literature Paper 2	AM	2h 15m
19/05/2027	Summer-27	NCFE	VTQ	603/7006/3	Engineering	NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Engineering	PM	1h 30m
20/05/2027	Summer-27	AQA	GCSE	8145/1A/A - 1B/E	History	History Paper 1	AM	2h
20/05/2027	Summer-27	AQA	GCSE	8145/1A/A - 1B/E	History	History Paper 1	AM	2h
21/05/2027	Summer-27	AQA	GCSE	8062/2A and 2B	Religious Studies A	Religious Studies A Paper 2	AM	1h 45m
24/05/2027	Summer-27	AQA	GCSE	8700/1	English Language	English Language Paper 1	AM	1h 45m
25/05/2027	Summer-27	AQA	GCSE	8464/P/1F and 1H	Combined Science: Trilogy	Combined Science: Trilogy - Physics Paper 1 (both tiers)	AM	1h 15m
26/05/2027	Summer-27	AQA	GCSE	8652/LF	French	French Paper 1	AM	35m
26/05/2027	Summer-27	AQA	GCSE	8652/LH	French	French Paper 1	AM	45m
26/05/2027	Summer-27	AQA	GCSE	8652/RF	French	French Paper 3	AM	45m
26/05/2027	Summer-27	AQA	GCSE	8652/RH	French	French Paper 3	AM	1h
26/05/2027	Summer-27	AQA	GCSE	8035/2	Geography	Geography Paper 2	PM	1h 30m
27/05/2027	Summer-27	AQA	GCSE	8300/2F and 2H	Mathematics	Mathematics Paper 2 (calculator) (both tiers)	AM	1h 30m
27/05/2027	Summer-27	Cambridge OCR	GCSE (9-1)	J536/05	Music	Listening and appraising - Written Paper	PM	1h 30m
28/05/2027	Summer-27	AQA	GCSE	8145/2A/A - 2B/D	History	History Paper 2	AM	2h
28/05/2027	Summer-27	AQA	GCSE	8145/2A/A - 2B/D	History	History Paper 2	AM	2h
08/06/2027	Summer-27	AQA	GCSE	8700/2	English Language	English Language Paper 2	AM	1h 45m
08/06/2027	Summer-27	AQA	GCSE	8652/WF	French	French Paper 4	PM	1h 10m
08/06/2027	Summer-27	AQA	GCSE	8652/WH	French	French Paper 4	PM	1h 15m
10/06/2027	Summer-27	AQA	GCSE	8464/B/2F and 2H	Combined Science: Trilogy	Combined Science: Trilogy - Biology Paper 2 (both tiers)	AM	1h 15m
10/06/2027	Summer-27	AQA	GCSE	8035/3	Geography	Geography Paper 3	PM	1h 30m
14/06/2027	Summer-27	AQA	GCSE	8300/3F and 3H	Mathematics	Mathematics Paper 3 (calculator) (both tiers)	AM	1h 30m
15/06/2027	Summer-27	AQA	GCSE	8464/C/2F and 2H	Combined Science: Trilogy	Combined Science: Trilogy - Chemistry Paper 2 (both tiers)	AM	1h 15m
15/06/2027	Summer-27	Pearson	GCSE	1DT0 1F	Design and Technology	Component 1: Timbers	PM	1h 45m
18/06/2027	Summer-27	AQA	GCSE	8464/P/2F and 2H	Combined Science: Trilogy	Combined Science: Trilogy - Physics Paper 2 (both tiers)	AM	1h 15m
19/08/2027								

Information for candidates
Using social media and examinations/assessments

While we like to share our experiences online, when it comes to exams and other assessments, we have to be careful.

- Sharing ideas online can be helpful when you're studying or revising
- However, sharing certain information (see information on the right) can break the rules and could affect your results
- If you're not sure what you can and can't discuss online, check with your teacher
- If you receive exam content on social media, you must tell your teacher
- Don't be caught out by scammers selling fake exam papers

Things to do on social media:

- Have fun
- Be responsible
- Report any exam or assessment content you see to your teacher

Things not to do on social media:

- Buy/ask for/share exam or assessment content
- Pass on rumours of what's in exams or assessments
- Share your work
- Work with others so that your assessment is not your own independent work

If you do any of the above activities, you may:

- Receive a written warning
- Lose marks
- Be disqualified from a part of or all of your qualifications
- Be barred from taking exams and assessments for a number of years

Please take the time to familiarise yourself with the JCQ rules:

jcq.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents

Information for candidates **AI (Artificial Intelligence and assessments)**

What is AI?

AI stands for artificial intelligence and can be used to create text, images, videos, music and artwork based on instructions given to an AI tool.

What is an AI tool?

AI tools are applications, such as ChatGPT, Snapchat My AI, Google and Google translate. There are many more!*

*The list of certain suppliers of AI-related products is for information purposes only and does not constitute an endorsement by JCQ and awarding bodies. It is each centre's responsibility to investigate and verify any suppliers they use, including any terms and conditions which govern the sale or use of the supplier's products. The list provided is not exhaustive.

When can I use AI?

- Your teachers may use it in class when teaching the course, but remember teaching in the classroom is not an exam!
- There are some assessments where you can use AI – your teachers will tell you if you can or cannot use an AI tool.
- Remember, the rules are different for different assessments and subjects, so always check with your teachers first!
- When an AI tool is allowed, **you must acknowledge**** the AI tools and the material produced by the AI tool that you have used in your work. If you do not acknowledge AI use, it will be **considered as cheating.**

When can I not use an AI tool?

- AI tools cannot be used in an exam or any other assessment where exam rules apply. This includes use or possession of hidden AI-enabled technology like smart glasses.
- This is what exam boards call **AI misuse and it is a form of cheating.**

**Acknowledgment – When producing a piece of work, if you use the same wording as a published source, you must place quotation marks around the passage and state where it came from. This is known as referencing. You must make sure that you give detailed references for everything in your work which is not in your own words, for example, *ChatGPT 3.5 (https://openai.com/blog/chatgpt/), 25/01/2025.*

IF YOU USE AN AI TOOL, YOU CANNOT GET MARKS FOR WHAT THE AI TOOL HAS PRODUCED, AS IT IS NOT YOUR OWN WORK

If I'm allowed to use AI, how is this breaking the rules?

AI misuse is:

- when you use an AI tool in an exam or assessment where you are not allowed to; and/or
- where you use an AI tool to create work and then say it's your own.

AI misuse can have serious consequences including possible disqualification.

How to make sure you don't misuse AI

ACKNOWLEDGE

If you are allowed to use an AI tool in your assessment (remember to check!), you must do the following:

- reference the AI tool you have used
- give the date of when the AI tool generated the content
- give details of how you used it
- save screenshots of what you have asked or instructed the AI tool to do and what answer the AI gave you, and include this with the work submitted.

DECLARE

- Remember to sign your declaration form when handing in your work for final assessment.
- Your signature on the declaration form tells your teacher and the exam board that you are saying all the work you're handing in is your own.
- If you have used an AI tool, **you must declare***** that you have used it before signing the declaration form

***Declare** – this means that when you submit your work for marking, the awarding body will normally require you to sign an authentication statement confirming that you have read and followed the regulations.

LAST CHECKS — Know the rules — Check with your teachers — ACKNOWLEDGE and DECLARE

EFFECTIVE FROM 1 SEPTEMBER 2026

Information for candidates
Using social media and examinations/assessments

While we like to share our experiences online, when it comes to exams and other assessments, we have to be careful.

- Sharing ideas online can be helpful when you're studying or revising
- However, sharing certain information (see information on the right) can break the rules and could affect your results
- If you're not sure what you can and can't discuss online, check with your teacher
- If you receive exam content on social media, you must tell your teacher
- Don't be caught out by scammers selling fake exam papers

Things to do on social media:

- Have fun
- Be responsible
- Report any exam or assessment content you see to your teacher

Things not to do on social media:

- Buy/ask for/share exam or assessment content
- Pass on rumours of what's in exams or assessments
- Share your work
- Work with others so that your assessment is not your own independent work

If you do any of the above activities, you may:

- Receive a written warning
- Lose marks
- Be disqualified from a part of or all of your qualifications
- Be barred from taking exams and assessments for a number of years

Please take the time to familiarise yourself with the JCQ rules:
jcq.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents

Guidance for parents, carers and students about access arrangements

WHAT ARE ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS?

- Access arrangements allow students with specific needs, such as special educational needs or disabilities, to access an exam.
- They allow students to show what they know and can do without changing the demands of the exam.

HOW WILL THE PROCESS START?

- Parents and carers should let the SENCo know as soon as possible if their child has additional needs. Good and open communication is important.
- Students in further education should record their additional needs on the college's enrolment form.
- The SENCo will work with teachers and the student to identify possible arrangements.
- Various access arrangements are available. For example, support for students who have difficulties with reading, writing, speed of working or concentration.
- Not all students with additional needs will require access arrangements. This depends on whether their difficulty affects their access to exams. Additional needs or a diagnosis alone do not entitle a student to access arrangements.

WHO WILL MAKE THE ASSESSMENT?

- If a student has learning difficulties, the school or college's appointed assessor must conduct the assessment to determine the need for access arrangements, such as 25% extra time.
- If an external assessor diagnoses a learning difficulty (for example, dyslexia or dyscalculia), the assessment can only be used as evidence for access arrangements if the assessor has liaised with the school or college and received the necessary access arrangements paperwork in advance of the assessment taking place.
- Specialists (for example, a medical consultant or a psychiatrist) are responsible for providing a formal diagnosis. They are **not** responsible for decisions about access arrangements.
- The school or college must decide which access arrangements a student has for their exams.
- Teachers must give evidence to show that an access arrangement is needed. The school or college will record how effective the arrangement is in the classroom, in internal tests or in mock exams.

WHAT ELSE NEEDS TO BE DONE?

- The school or college will have to apply for some arrangements.
- If a student has complex needs, a school or college can discuss their needs with the exam board.

FINALLY

Schools and colleges **must** follow the rules. They are inspected and if they are found to be breaking the rules, this will be malpractice.

If you have any questions about access arrangements, please speak to the school, college or SENCo.

On your exam day

This checklist will help you to be as prepared as possible for your exams so that you can focus on doing your best on the day.

Before sitting your exams, ensure you know:

- ☐ the date, time and location of each of your exams. You might find it helpful to write this information in a calendar or planner.
- ☐ who to contact at school or college in case there's an emergency that makes you late or unable to sit your exam.

What you will need:

- ☐ a clear pencil case
- ☐ at least two black ink pens – blue pens are **not acceptable**
- ☐ an approved calculator for relevant exams
- ☐ appropriate equipment, such as a ruler or protractor, for relevant exams
- ☐ a clear water bottle if you wish to take one in. It **must not** have a label

Contingency sessions:

- ☐ There are contingency sessions within the Summer 2027 exam timetable on the morning and afternoon of 23 June 2027. Make sure you are available on 23 June 2027.

What you cannot take into your exams:

- ☐ any type of phone
- ☐ revision notes
- ☐ any type of watch (this includes analogue, digital and smart watches)
- ☐ smart devices (e.g. earbuds, smart glasses or tablets)

Other important information:

- ☐ Listen carefully to the invigilator's instructions, which will be specific to your exam. If you are unsure of anything, please raise your hand and wait for the invigilator to respond.
- ☐ Fill in your details on the front of your answer booklet.
- ☐ If you need an additional answer sheet, raise your hand and wait for an invigilator to provide one. Remember to add your details to this sheet.
- ☐ If you need to use the toilet or feel unwell, raise your hand and wait for an invigilator to escort you from the exam room.
- ☐ Remember to stay silent – talking to a fellow candidate could result in disqualification from all your exams.

If you have any questions about your exams, ask your teacher or exams officer. ?

You can also find useful information about preparing for exams at **www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents**

Notes From Parents Evening