



Shropshire  
Gateway  
Educational Trust

# Lacon Childe School

*...more than just a school*

Head of School Mrs. Rachel Croxton-Broome  
Consultant Executive Headteacher Mrs. Ruth Allen



12 February 2025

## Year 9 Exams

Dear Parents/Carers,

This half term Year 9 have been amazing at taking part in the opportunities that have been given to them from rugby games, young leaders leading our local primary schools and an amazing Annie performed to our local community. Next half term will be just as exciting, and I would like to draw your attention to the following key dates:

- Year 9 exams start on Friday 28 February, and finish on Wednesday 5 March
- The options process will begin for Year 9 students with the option's evening on Thursday 27 February.
- Year 9 parents evening will be held on 27 March,

In preparation for key stage 4, we will be running the examinations as formal examinations in the hall. Students will be provided with a seat that they will use for all their examinations. The formal nature of the examinations provides students with a good opportunity to prepare for Year 10 and give them a taste of what their final GCSE examinations will be like.

Student exam timetables are now ready for you to view on Arbor. To help access this please login into Arbor, go to Quick Actions on the main screen, and then Examinations. In Examinations you will be able to see the statement of entry, and the exam timetable. If you download the timetable that gives information of dates, times and seat numbers. Seat allocation can be seen by looking at their Geography examination. The French listening exams will take place Friday 28 February and will be in their normal classroom due to poor acoustics in the hall.

On Monday, we held an assembly for all Year 9 students to talk through our expectations for examinations and ensure that they are well prepared and understand what will be happening. We discussed how they will enter the wall, behaviour expectations and preparation in terms of equipment required. Students must ensure they have no writing on hands or mobiles phones on their person.

As you are aware, we made a number of changes to the homework policy this year. The homework that students have been completing has been helping them to prepare for these examinations. On page 2 of this letter, we have detailed some key ways that we have been teaching students to use when revising as well as information about the importance of a calm and quiet place to study. Below are some interesting articles on supporting your child with homework and best ways for them to learn and revise:

- [10 ways to help your child with their homework](#)
- [5 ways to declutter your workspace](#)
- [7 ways to maintain student learning](#)
- [Using flashcards to revise](#)

I have been extremely impressed with the students as they set themselves high standards and work hard to achieve them and I am in no doubt they will do well. Here is a reminder of the Year 9 tutor teams should you wish to contact us regarding exams or option process.

- Head of Year 9    Mrs Aldridge-Bufton    [lindsey.aldridge-buf@laconchilleschool.co.uk](mailto:lindsey.aldridge-buf@laconchilleschool.co.uk)
- Clee                Mrs Koziel                    [aleksandra.koziel@laconchilleschool.co.uk](mailto:aleksandra.koziel@laconchilleschool.co.uk)
- Mortimer         Mr Hillman                  [george.hillman@laconchilleschool.co.uk](mailto:george.hillman@laconchilleschool.co.uk)
- Stretton          Mr Martin                    [sam.martin@laconchilleschool.co.uk](mailto:sam.martin@laconchilleschool.co.uk)
- Wrekin            Mrs Kettle                    [lauren.kettle@laconchilleschool.co.uk](mailto:lauren.kettle@laconchilleschool.co.uk)

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Aldridge-Bufton  
**Head of Year 9**

### **Study environment**

Research has shown that listening to music whilst working can in fact reduce the amount of knowledge which is processed and overload the working memory. A recent study by Cardiff MET University found that listening to music whilst learning meant that students were able to recall 24% less information than those who worked with no music or noise to distract them. Therefore, you can support your child by ensuring that when they complete revision and homework at home, that you eliminate as many distractions as you can in their study environment, to keep their attention focused on the information they are learning. That means removing their phone, turning off the TV, and having a quiet place to be able to work.

### **Ways to revise**

There are lots of different ways to learn. Students could:

1. Make flash cards. For flash cards to work, they need to be simple and straightforward. For example, on one side the English word, and the other side, the German word. Or on one side the question 'who became king after the death of Henry VIII?', and the other side, the answer 'his son King Edward VI'. Students can use the flash cards to help them self-quiz or ask someone else to quiz them.
2. Draw a mind map. Write down everything they can remember then use their books to fill in any gaps.
3. Look, cover, check quizzing following the steps below:
  - Chunk it: Look at what they have been asked to learn. Organise the content into smaller sections if possible. Doing this will prevent the amount from becoming overwhelming.
  - Memorise the section: Repeat it aloud or write out the information (use scrap paper) from memory, increasing the amount each time, over and over again until they cannot get it wrong. They could also get someone in the family to quiz them.
  - Cover it up: Cover up the section they are learning. This really gets their brain to work hard which makes it more likely to stick in the long term.
  - Write it out: Write out what they can remember. They should not look back at their work even if they are struggling - instead they need to engage and challenge their brain!
  - Check it: Once they have written what they can remember, they should refer back to their work and check and correct their work in a different colour pen.
  - Repeat: Repeat the steps and this time focus on the words/sections that they got wrong.

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**The Shropshire Gateway Educational Trust**