



17 October 2025

Dear Families

As we move towards the mock exams in November, I wanted to write to you to ensure that arrangements for the examinations are clear in terms of the equipment students need.

In previous years, we have provided pencil cases in the exam hall for students as a backup if they did not have the equipment they needed. This has a significant financial and time impact on the exams team who keep these stocked and ready. However, we are finding that these are increasingly difficult to maintain and that the vast majority of students actually prefer their own equipment which helps them feel more comfortable in the exam hall in any case.

At the same time, you may be aware that Casio changed the design of their calculators and discontinued the old models a couple of years ago. This means that the Maths and Science teams in particular have been adjusting their guidance so that students are familiar with operating these new models. It is fair to say that to replace a set of calculators, with spares, for a cohort of 270 students is a significant financial commitment that does not make sense given they are used for a small number of weeks across a year.

With all of this in mind, we have reviewed our provision and will no longer be providing pencil cases as standard in the exam hall. Students will be expected to bring their own equipment, including a calculator, to their exams in order to be able to access their papers. Of course, we will stock a small number of spares for those unavoidable moments where students have forgotten something, but there is no guarantee that we will be able to provide something if there becomes a large number.

Therefore, please be aware that students should have the following on a daily basis in lessons and in readiness for the exams, both mock and real:

- Transparent/see through/clear pencil case
- 2 x Black pen
- Green pen
- Pencil
- 2 x Highlighter
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Calculator
- Protractor
- Compass

To support families, we will offer the following:

- Calculators - available through the 'Products' page on MCAS for £10. The model is a Casio fx-83GTCW (Amazon link [here](#) for reference)
- Stocked pencil cases - we will have some of these stocked (from our old exams stock) with all of the above, except a calculator. They are available from our stationary shop in AVA for £2 (cash)

only) for Year 10-13 students only. There will not be a huge number, so if this is useful then please do ask your child to act quickly.

If you think that you may have a financial barrier, and are in receipt of the Pupil Premium funding, please do contact your child's Head of Community who will be able to support you.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to all the students achieving their best over the coming months.

Yours sincerely

Mr Peter Cowlin
Deputy Headteacher

