



RC/JAE

9 May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 11 Pupils

As the final written papers for this year's GCSEs are about to start, there has been discussion on a local and National level regarding potential 'scam/illegal' access to examination papers. This has not been highlighted as a Portchester issue, but I wish to draw it to your attention.

I have taken parts of a recent BBC article to highlight my concerns and raise your awareness to an issue pupils can be drawn into but must avoid completely.

GCSE pupils targeted by 'manipulative' exam scams

Social media companies need to do more to 'shut down' scammers selling fake GCSE and A-Level papers to students, say exam boards.

TikTok and Instagram have said they do not allow the sale of exam papers on their platforms.

But BBC News has found dozens of accounts falsely claiming to have access to this year's exam papers, with some charging hundreds of pounds.

Students say the accounts are 'very easy to find', with one describing the posts as 'psychologically manipulative'.

The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ), which represents the UK's eight largest exam boards, says it is highly unlikely real papers are being leaked online.

England's exam regulator Ofqual says if students try to cheat, they could lose the qualification they have been studying for, even if the papers they try to buy are fake.

Please help your child by supporting their attendance to school and after school revision sessions. Revision Guides are also still available from the School Shop.

If you have any concerns about your child accessing fake examination papers, please contact the school immediately.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely

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