

December 2020 Update

Y11 Mocks – Frequently asked questions

With some year 11 students isolating, we have some students completing option subject papers at home. This has raised a number of questions from parents and students alike so we thought that all parents would find this information helpful.

Why not cancel the mocks and delay them until Jan/Feb? We already have further mocks planned for March. The December mocks provide teaching staff with key information, specifically the key gaps in knowledge and skills, enabling teaching from January to be more targeted and focused. In addition, there is no guarantee that we won't be in the same position with students isolating after Christmas.

How will we ensure fairness if some student complete the papers at home?

English, maths and science will all be completed in school. Isolating students will catch up and sit outstanding papers in the last week of term. In options subjects with 2 or more papers e.g. History, Geography at least one paper will be completed in school. Should the summer exams be cancelled and ranking is needed, only assessments completed by all students within school will be used.

Why can't students isolating complete the papers in January?

As some students will already miss two weeks of in school learning, we do not wish to lose further lessons by extending the mock period by two weeks.

My child has worked really hard to prepare for the mocks, is completing a paper at home and feels disappointed that this grade may not count.

If the summer exams go ahead as planned, mock grades will not count towards the final grade. However, in previous years, students who prepare thoroughly for the mocks perform well in the summer as this preparation provides a good foundation for success. Should the summer exams be cancelled, we will look at the performance of students across a range of assessments **not** just the mock grades.

My child has had to isolate and miss learning time, how can the exams be fair?

The DFE and government are under much pressure to announce plans in the coming days outlining how they will address this issue. As a school, we are working hard to support students in their preparation for the summer exams. We are providing additional sessions both within the school day and during extended evening sessions which will continue until the exams to prepare our students as best we can.