

14 November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 11 Mock Exam arrangements and Summer 2022 GCSE updates

As a parent or carer of a Year 11 student, I know you will be trying to support your child in every way possible as they work towards the GCSE exams in the summer. I wanted to take this opportunity to contact you again as we start your child's mock exams fortnight.

The latest information we have was released on 29 September regarding the exams in summer 2023. For students preparing for GCSEs, these are the important points. The government, the exams regulator Ofqual and the exam boards have confirmed the following:

- At a national level, grades will be in line with grades in 2019. This was always likely to be the case this year, after a one-year transition year when exams returned in 2022.
- However, there will be a safety net to ensure that, nationally, grades are not lower than they were in 2019.
- This means that, generally speaking, students have the same chance of getting a grade 9 or 5 at GCSE level as in 2019.
- Exams in vocational and technical qualifications will also return to a 2019 grade profile.
- Formula sheets will be provided in the GCSE maths, physics and combined sciences exams, meaning that students will not need to memorise these formulae or equations.
- Advanced information about where to focus revision, which was provided in 2022, **will not be** provided this year. **Students will need to learn and revise the whole specification as normal. Any topic could come up in the exam.**
- If a student has studied the whole course but is ill during the exam period they may be able to receive a grade by sitting one paper in the qualification rather than the previous rule of 25% of the assessment, although certification of illness will be needed.
- The exam boards are currently consulting on the exam timetable. In most qualifications, there is at least a week between the first and last exam paper to ensure that if students are ill for one paper they are able to sit another.

They are also consulting on what contingency arrangements to take this year in case exams are cancelled in summer 2023. Unlike last year, there is not an expectation that we collect evidence at three points throughout the year. When this decision is made by government, subject teachers will confirm what work, if any, would be used if exams are cancelled.

To give our students the best opportunity to be prepared for the important Year 11 mock exams, we have been extensively using 'recall and retrieval' activities to check knowledge and using regular formative assessment in all subject areas to check understanding.

As far as possible, the mock exams will be like the final exam series. I have attached an updated timetable of the mock exam series which started today, Monday 14 November and runs until Monday 28 November 2022. Students that have qualified for Access Arrangements or additional support will be given this support in these exams and Mrs. Abbs, the SENCO, has contacted the parents of those students who are eligible for these arrangements.

Throughout the mock exam fortnight, students are strongly encouraged to attend pre-exam revision sessions starting from 8.00 am each morning in the dining Hall. All students will be provided with toast and water bottles so that they can have some breakfast whilst these sessions are going on. Students are also expected to take part in any lunchtime revision sessions that are taking place prior to the afternoon exams.

The next Year 11 Parents' Consultation evening will be on Tuesday 10 January 2023 and on this evening we look forward to being able to discuss how we will continue to support you and your child at this important time in their educational career.

Should you have any further questions about Year 11 exams at this time, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs. C Humble
Deputy Headteacher

Yr 11 Mock Exam Timetable: November 2022

Week 1		Monday 14.11.22	Tuesday 15.11.22	Wednesday 16.11.22	Thursday 17.11.22	Friday 18.11.22
am		Maths Paper 1 (210)	English Lang (210)	Chemistry (210)	Food (38) / DT (23)	Geography Paper 1 (125)
	1h30	1h45	1h45	SS 1h45 / CS 1h15	1h45 / 1h45	1h30
					SCO Art Class P1 / 2	
pm		History Paper 1 (80)	RE (197)	Computer Sc (35) / BTEC IT (24)	Maths Paper 2 (210)	Film Studies (17) / French (1)
	1h	1h30	1h30	1h30 / 1h30	1h30	1h30 / 2h
						VFI Art Class P4 / 5

Week 2		Monday 21.11.22	Tuesday 22.11.22	Wednesday 23.11.22	Thursday 24.11.22	PD Day: school closed to students	Monday 28.11.22
am		Physics (210)	Maths Paper 3 (210)	English Lit (210)	Biology (210)		Spanish (36 + 3yr10) / French (6) Reading / Writing
	SS 1h45 / CS 1h15	1h30	1h45	SS 1h45 / CS 1h15	SS 1h45 / CS 1h15		2H total
pm		Geography Paper 2 (125)	History Paper 2 (80)	PE (26) / BTEC Travel & Tourism (9)	BTEC Music (11) / H&S (36)		BTEC Sport (33) (online mock)
	1h	1h	1h15 / 1h15	1h	1h		1h15
				VFI Art Class P4 / 5	SCO Art Class P4 / 5		