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23rd March 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 11 Spring Mock Examinations
Monday 28th February – Thursday 31st March 2022

Attached you will find a copy of the Year 11 Spring Mock Examination Timetable. The mock examinations will be sat in the Sports Hall or, if your child has specific exam dispensation, an agreed alternative venue, and will follow strict examination rules and regulations. Students will be required to be in school, in correct uniform, during the mock examination period. Examinations will start at 9:00am and 1:00pm each day. The arrangement for each day is outlined below:

- **Students sitting an examination in the morning slot will be dismissed to their period 2 lesson at the end of the exam**
- **All students attend their normal timetabled lesson during period 3**
- **Students sitting the afternoon examination will have an early lunch at 12:20 and will be dismissed home at the end of the exam**
- **Students not sitting an afternoon examination will attend their normal lessons periods 4 and 6. They will have lunch at normal time and will be dismissed, as usual, at 3:15pm**

Can you please have a look at the timetable with your child and ensure that they are prepared for each examination. The minimum equipment required for each examination is as follows:

- **A clear pencil case**
- **A black ink pen**
- **A pencil**
- **A ruler**
- **A rubber**
- **A calculator if the paper/subject requires one**

They can bring a bottle of water into the examination, but the wrapper will need to be removed. No other items are allowed into the examination venue this includes phones and Smart watches, these must be off and in students bags. The mock examinations will be run as if they were the student's real GCSE examinations and therefore it is good practice to get into the habit of what is required for the examinations. If you have any questions, or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me on my direct line number 020 8331 3036.

Steven Fyfe
Assistant Headteacher (Assessment & Timetable)

Mock exams can be incredibly beneficial for students: they can help students to start revising early, to practise effective revision strategies, to improve their knowledge, to familiarise themselves with pressure, and act as a guide moving forward. Given the continued uncertainty of this academic year, they are also potentially more crucial than ever as they would form a key piece of evidence in the event of teacher assessment replacing examinations. Our Year 11 support and guidance page (<https://www.thomastallisschool.com/year-11-support--guidance.html>) includes links to the various subject support pages, the after school intervention timetable, holiday sessions when they are on offer, and links to GCSEPod, Tassomai, Dr Frost and software to create a revision timetable. Students should designate several hours each evening and longer each day at weekends to revise. The revision guide on the guidance page also advises parents and students on the revision strategies students should be using to maximise the use of their time. Please do contact subject teachers, form tutors, Ms Odd or myself at the school if you need any advice or guidance.

You may also be aware that Advance Information of the focus of exams in most GCSE subjects with exams this year has now been published by exam boards to support students in their revision.

This advance information confirms some of the aspects of the specification that will be assessed in the exams, relating to content, texts, topics, themes and/or skills as appropriate for each specification.

A portal-page for the advanced information and adaptations is available here: [Subject-by-subject support for GCSE, AS and A level students in 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/subject-by-subject-support-for-gcse-as-and-a-level-students-in-2022)

The advanced information is intended to help students focus their revision, and as such has been made freely available by all the boards and is not behind a paywall. The advanced information pertains to specific papers and specifications, so naturally looks different between different boards and between different subjects. The government has confirmed that the grade profile in 2022 will be more generous than in a normal exam year; and so, any differences between subjects will be mitigated through the grading process.

Jon Curtis-Brignell
Head of School