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Dear Parents and carers,

Year 10 Mock Examinations: Monday 17 April to Friday 28 April 2023

As you may be aware, we have scheduled mock examinations for Year 10 in the first two weeks back after the Easter break. You will find a copy of the mock examination timetable attached. Mock examinations serve as a crucial opportunity to give students experience of the exam setting and help them to get used to exam pressure, as well as giving us accurate information about their current attainment.

We try to make mock exams as much like the real GCSEs as possible. The Joint Council on Qualifications are tightening up on the amount of students a centre can allow to be in separate rooms, so will use their criteria for theses and all other mocks. Anxiety no longer gives an automatic displacement to a smaller venue. It only affects where a student sits an exam if there are other diagnosed conditions such as ASD or ADHD. Unless there is a written diagnosis of a need, accepted by the school, all children must go into the hall. Further, they may not use the LSU. We need to prevent any student from expecting to do tests, assessments, mocks and ultimately their exams in the LSU. It will not be possible. We need to prepare our children for the real exams in 2024, and this is a very important step.

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 morning examinations must register in the canteen by 8:40am and will be dismissed to their period 2 lesson at the end of the examination
- All students attend their normal timetabled lesson during period 3
- Students sitting afternoon examinations will have lunch at 12:20pm, register in the canteen at 12:50pm and will be dismissed home at the end of the examination
- 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
- Students failing to attend a timetabled examination will not have another opportunity to sit the paper unless there are extenuating circumstances

Expectations during all exam periods are that:

- Bags, coats, smart watches or phones are stored at the back of the exam hall.
- Students must follow the strict rules of the exam hall and the instructions of invigilators.
- Water bottles are allowed if they are plastic, and the label has been removed. Reusable bottles must be placed on the floor near their desk.
- Students take full responsibility for their good conduct during the exam period and behave properly at all times.
- The same rules apply as usual for conduct off-site, including the 'Dover Patrol' curfew.

Any evidence of dishonest practice or examination expectations not being met may result in disqualification from the examination.

The minimum equipment required for each examination is as follows:

inquisitive • collaborative • persistent • disciplined • imaginative

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

Can you please have a look at the timetable with your child and ensure that they are prepared for each examination.

Preparation:

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. For all of this, however, correct preparation is crucial.

As we enter the mock examination period, we would really appreciate it if you are able to work with your child to use their time wisely and ensure they attend school every single day. Students in Year 10 should aim to have a revision timetable specifying the time they are using to focus on the various subject areas each week. We recommend that at this stage of their education, students should be aiming towards completing two hours of independent learning per day. To support you with this departments have completed an overview document of what students should learn for the mocks and where the revision materials can be found, this has been sent to you alongside this letter.

It is also worth reminding you that students also have access to GCSE Pod and Sparx Maths, together providing a huge amount of interactive teaching and support for students in most subject areas. If you would like to find out more about how best to support your child there is a free webinar on GCSEPod on the 21st April at 5pm, you can register [here](#). There is also an introduction video linked [here](#). Your child can access their GCSEPod account using their school email and log in.

This will also be a demanding time for students, and we hope you do all you can to help them through this by also ensuring they get enough sleep, eat well, take some exercise and have a space to revise. Please continue to contact tutors or either of us if you have concerns. We will do what we can to resolve any issues.

We would like to thank you for all your support and look forward to a very successful rest of the year for all of Year 10. Please do contact subject teachers, form tutors, or any of us at the school if you need any further advice or guidance.

Yours sincerely,

Tamsin Wildy
Head of Year 10

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