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Dear Parents and carers,

Year 10 Mock Examinations: Monday 7 June to Friday 11 June 2021

As you may be aware, we have scheduled a week of mock exams for Year 10 in the first week back after half-term. You will find a copy of the mock examination timetable attached. Mock exams 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.

The mock examinations will be sat in the Sports Hall, or, if your child requires particular access arrangements, in an agreed alternative venue, and will follow usual examination rules and regulations.

Students will be required to be in school, in correct uniform, during the mock examination week, either sitting their exam or attending normal timetabled lessons. Students who do not have examinations will be expected to attend their normal timetabled lessons.

Can you please have a look at the timetable with your child and ensure that they are prepared for each examination? Please note that not all subjects will have a mock examination and in these cases students will be having normal lessons.

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

These are the arrangements for students during the mock exam week:

- Students must line up in zone in plenty of time for all assessments: 08.30 at the latest for a morning assessment and 11.20 for a period 3 - 4 assessment.
- It is vitally important that students wear uniform for all assessments. They will not be allowed to enter the exam room otherwise.
- All equipment to be taken into an exam must be in a clear plastic case or bag. See the equipment list below!
- Bags, coats, smart watches or phones cannot be taken into the exam hall.
- Students must follow the strict rules of the exam hall and the instructions of invigilators.
- Water bottles are allowed if it is plastic the label must be removed. Reusable bottles must be placed on the floor near their desk.
- We expect students to take full responsibility for their good conduct during the exam period and to behave properly at all times.
- The same rules apply as usual for conduct off-site, including the 'Dover Patrol' curfew.

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.

It is also worth reminding you that students also have access to GCSE Pod, Tassomai and MathsWatch, together providing a huge amount of interactive teaching and support for students in most subject areas.

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.

Parents Evening Wednesday 7 July 3.45-6.45pm

As you are hopefully aware Parents Evening is now scheduled to take place on Wednesday 7 July. With the anticipated move to Step 4 of the government's Coronavirus (COVID-19) Roadmap on 21 June, the guidance for education settings means that it may be possible for us to hold this event face to face. However, given the increased risk of the new COVID-19 variant and our own recent experience of an increase in positive cases in school, we know that some parents and carers may still prefer the option to attend online appointments via video calls. With this in mind we would like to get some feedback from you via a survey <https://tinyurl.com/Yr10Parentseve> as to whether you would prefer to attend in person or online. We may be able to offer a mixture of in person and online appointments, and so we need to know numbers to facilitate this. Please could you respond to the survey by Friday 28 May?

Duke of Edinburgh award – An update

As you may know, all of Year 10 are completing the Duke of Edinburgh Award this year. This is the first time we have been able to offer the prestigious programme to a whole year group, and we are excited to help our students gain the accreditation. Each section (Physical, Skill and Volunteering) should be worked on once a week for 3 months, and one (of students' choosing) for 6 months. Many students will nearly be finished now which is fantastic.

Planning for an Autumn Term DofE camping expedition is underway and we would like to take as many students away as possible. The prerequisite for this is that they need to have completed each of the first three sections and had them signed off by an assessor. Tutors are helping students to complete the programme but please can we ask that you talk to your child to see how they are doing and encourage them to complete each section? If you have any questions please visit the Tallis DofE webpage here: <https://tinyurl.com/4jzxe5dy>

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

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Head of Year 10

Jon Curtis-Brignell
Principal Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum)

Heather Odd
Director of Achievement and Transition