

13 October 2021

Dear parent/carers

Year 11 Mock Examinations

Year 11 students will sit their first set of mock examinations for this year from the week beginning 8 November 2021.

To support your child in preparing for their mock examinations, I have enclosed a copy of our mock examination timetable within our examination support booklet. Students will receive a personalised copy of their timetable following the October half term.

It is crucial that your child is in school for all assessments, unless they have tested positive for Covid on a lateral flow or PCR test. These assessments will give your child an indication of their current progress and will inform the Academy of what further support is required to fully prepare them for their final examinations in the summer term 2022.

I have enclosed a booklet which outlines the topics that your child will be assessed on during their mock examination period, as well as guidance on revision strategies and wellbeing; your child might find this useful for their preparation.

We are committed to sharing with parents and students any information that we have regarding summer 2022 examinations for your child.

At present, Ofqual have announced that 2022 will be a transition year to reflect that we are in a pandemic recovery period and students' education has been disrupted. In 2022 they aim, therefore, to reflect a midway point between 2021 and 2019.

Arrangements have been put in place for summer 2022 to support students and make exams fairer for them. The government has introduced a choice of topics or content in some GCSE exams and exam boards will give advance information about the focus of the content of exams, designed to provide guidance for revision for students ahead of summer exams, and study aids will be allowed in some exams. We expect to receive this guidance in February and will use this to prepare students for their final examinations.

Adaptations will include:

- A choice of topics or content on which students will be assessed in GCSE English literature, history, ancient history and geography.
- Providing advance information on the focus of exams to support students' revision in subjects where there is not a choice of topics.
- Giving students formulae sheets in GCSE maths and revised equation sheets in GCSE combined science and physics.
- Changing requirements for practical science work and practical art and design assessments to ensure fairness.

As we return to summer exams in 2022 exam boards will set the grade boundaries based on a profile that reflects a midpoint between 2021 and pre-pandemic grading.

This will provide a safety net for students, to reflect the disruption this cohort have experienced.

Schools are also being asked to collate evidence during this academic year that could be used should we find ourselves in the position of exams being cancelled nationally. The DfE and Ofqual say assessments that take place over the course of the year already – such as coursework and mocks – will make up the evidence base wherever possible. With this in mind, students should ensure that they commit fully to their mock examination process as the results from these may be used should such a circumstance arise.

We will continue to update parents and students as we receive further information.

I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and reassure you that as an Academy, we are fully committed to ensuring no student is disadvantaged and to support your child to excel.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LMG', with a small flourish at the end.

Miss Lindsey Maycock
Standards and Progress Leader KS4