



10 June 2024

Dear families

Re: Year 10 Update and Mock Examinations

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to update you on plans for our Year 10 mock examinations and the strategies in place to support your child at this critical time in preparation for Year 11. I had the pleasure of taking assembly with Year 10 last week and challenged them to think hard about their personal ambitions for the future. We think hard at the Academy about our Ambition value and work even harder to support pupils in understanding just what is possible for them. I also shared with them the basis of our plans for the coming weeks.

All information on Year 10 Mock Examinations can be found on our website. This includes the examination timetables and resources from each Faculty which can be used for revision and preparation. This information can be found here: <https://www.dukeries.attrust.org.uk/our-academy/exams/>

Year 10 Mock Examinations will follow the model we have developed for the real Year 11 GCSEs. We will treat them with the same level of importance and rigour and will use the assessment information to carefully plan your child's next steps. We will also be holding a Mock Results evening for families. I will write to you with the detail on this shortly.

This year we have significantly developed our approach to examinations and outcomes, which we are confident will have real impact. Examples include:

- Offering extensive revision and intervention after school every afternoon through the Accelerate programme. This is directed and delivered by teachers.
- Offering two intervention sessions per week for Key Stage 4 during coaching time.
- The implementation of a "flipped timetable" for Year 11, where Year 11 teachers are made available to teach pupils for a whole morning or afternoon before every exam.
- Improvements to exam boosters and guidance.
- Improvements to the quality of intervention strategy, including raising achievement meetings.
- Improvements to the quality of teaching.

Experience tells us how to help pupils achieve exceptional GCSE results, and the journey has already started. GCSEs are not the be all and end all, but we do know that pupils have the best chance of high-quality employment, further education and training and access to university if they choose to go, by starting with a great set of results as a product of their time here. We exist to make sure all pupils have the best chance of a happy and successful life, and this is one way of setting them on the path to securing this.

Year 10 Attendance

The single biggest factor on your child's achievement is their attendance here at school. Year 10 attendance does need to improve significantly, currently sitting below expectations. As in my

previous whole Academy letter on attendance I am very aware that some pupils often face challenges with illness and poor mental health, anxiety or low levels of confidence along with many other possible difficulties. This can be very tough for families who deal with these pressures at home every day. I think it is important to note, however, the following:

- Pupils who attend TDA 95% of the time or more, outperform pupils nationally in GCSE exams, improving confidence, future opportunities and the long-term outlook on mental health and wellbeing.
- We have an outstanding provision for extra-curricular, enrichment and personal development. Pupils who are here benefit significantly from their engagement with us in these areas.
- We offer free breakfast, every day, for every child from 8.20am in the cafeteria.
- Our attendance pathway does more than ever before to support families, including sourcing external support, if their child requires any to attend school.

We will continue to do all we can to improve your child's experience at TDA, along with every possible action to ensure they achieve excellent GCSE qualifications when they reach the end of Year 11.

I hope you find the resources and timetable useful as you help to prepare your child and I look forward to our continued work together.

Kind regards



Mr M Brett
Head of Academy

