

Date as posted

Dear Year 11 Parents / Guardian

### **Ref: Year 11 Mock Exams (2019-20)**

The introduction of the 9-1 GCSE qualifications has involved a significant amount of change. This has been in terms of the amount of content to be covered; the level of challenge and the style of the examinations. One of the changes we have made in response to these new GCSEs has been to run two sets of mock exams in English and maths.

The aim of putting on these additional mock exams is to provide our students with more practice in answering questions under exam conditions in these two key subjects. They also help to familiarise the students with the length and style of the final exam papers as well providing further information on how well they are progressing.

Having reflected on our experiences over the past few years, we have decided to make some slight changes to the timing of the various sets of mock exams this year. The main change will be to bring the first set of mock exams in English and maths forward to mid-November and to focus the main mock period in January on all the other subjects apart from these two (plus Art & Design and the MFL speaking exams).

The key mock periods for the current academic year are shown in the table below:

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Subjects</b>
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> November – Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> November 2019	English and maths – 1 <sup>st</sup> set of mocks
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> November – Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> November 2019	MFL Speaking Exams – 1 <sup>st</sup> set
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December- Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	Art & Design
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February – 7 February 2020	MFL Speaking Exams – 2 <sup>nd</sup> set –Specific Students Only
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> January-Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2020	Main mock period for all subjects <b>except</b> Art & Design, English and maths
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February –Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	English and maths – 2 <sup>nd</sup> set of mocks

The main reasons for making these changes include:

- staggering the exams to ensure that students are not ‘over-loaded’ during the year
- provide an earlier focus for students in Year 11
- allow us to take advantage of the analysis of our students’ results in English and maths (provided by an organisation called PiXL) which will help provide more effective feedback to students and teachers

## **English and Maths – 1<sup>st</sup> set of mocks**

The table below shows the exam timetable for the 1<sup>st</sup> set of mocks in English and maths.

<b>Week A</b>	<b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November</b>
8.45am start	English Language Paper 1 (1hr 45 mins)	Mathematics Paper 2 (1hr 30mins)	Mathematics Paper 3 (1hr 30 mins)	English Literature Paper 1 (1hr 45mins)
1.30pm start	Mathematics Paper 1 (1hr 30 mins)			

These examinations will take place in the School Hall and the students should arrive at least 10 minutes before the start of the morning exams (8.35am) and 15 minutes before the afternoon exams (1.15pm). They need to bring all their equipment (including calculators) in a clear pencil case/ plastic bag. Water bottles should be clear and must not have any labels on them. We will ensure that students with additional time and other access arrangements know where they need to go and when.

Following the end of each exam the students will return to their normal lessons. They should wear full school uniform as normal. The English and maths teams will ensure that your child knows what to prepare for each of these exams.

### **Term 2 Report**

We will send details of your child's performance in these examinations home with the Term 2 report towards the end of December.

### **Other mock exam periods**

We will send further details of the two other mock exam periods, including the exam timetables, closer to these exam periods.

### **Year 11 Revision Evening**

The Year 11 Revision Evening will be taking place in the School Hall on Thursday October 17<sup>th</sup>. It is very important that all parents and students attend this evening. This will provide further information on these mock exam periods as well as provide practical revision strategies which the students can use.

If you have any questions about any of these matters, please contact your child's tutor.

Yours faithfully,

*E.J. Newbold*

**Dr Newbold**

Deputy Head