



Year 10 GCSE Mock Examinations

(Monday 7th June to Monday 21st June 2021)

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Year 10 GCSE Mock Examinations will be taking place from Monday 7th June to Monday 21st June. These are very important exams as they provide a clear benchmark on how well your child is progressing towards the mid-way point in their GCSE studies. You will receive details on your child's performance as part of their Term 6 reports.

If you click on the link below it will take you to the 'Year 10 Introduction to GCSEs' page on the school's website:

<https://gillotts.org.uk/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/years10-11/year-10-introduction-to-gcse>

If you scroll down to the bottom of this web page you will find a copy of the 'GCSE Course Guide and Exam Booklet' which you can access by clicking on it. This contains links to the key documents on the Exam Board websites for each subject – including copies of the specifications which provide details of all the GCSE topics. Your child's teacher will inform them which of these topics will be included in the Year 10 exams.

There will not be any 'study leave' during the exam period and students should attend their lessons as normal unless they are in an exam. As you will note from the exam timetable (a copy of which is also attached with this e-mail), almost all the exams are in the School Hall. In the case of students with special considerations they will be informed of any alternative venues for their exams. It is important that students arrive at least 10 minutes before the start of the exam (8.35am for an 8.45am start, 1.35pm for a 1.45pm start).

What about the timing of the afternoon exams?

We have had to change the timing and structure of the school day as part of our response to the coronavirus pandemic. While we have a long session in the morning for exams which can accommodate the requirements of those students with extra time, the afternoon session is only one hour long.

Although we will do our best to ensure that the afternoon exams start at 1.45pm each day we cannot guarantee that students will have completed these exams before the end of the school day/ departure of buses. We would therefore request that alternative arrangements are made for students to get home if they have an afternoon exam. We have minimised the number of exams that are scheduled in the afternoons, in order to reduce the number of days for which you may need to make alternative arrangements.

If you need your child to wait at school for a lift they will be able to stay in school but if this is the case, please can you contact our Exams Officer, Mrs Farman by Friday 23rd April, stating on which day(s) you will need this provision, and until what time:

vfarm@gillotts.org.uk

What equipment is needed?

Students 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.

All students will also need to ensure that they have all the correct equipment for every exam as we will not be lending any unless what they are using breaks or runs out of ink. Further details about the running of the exams and

the equipment they are required to bring can be found by clicking on the link to the exams section of the school website below:

[Gillotts School Exam Information](#)

How should my child prepare for these exams?

It is very important that your child prepares thoroughly for these exams. Your child's teachers will make sure that the lessons over the next few weeks are focused on preparation for these exams.

There are some key messages which I would like to give to you and your child:

- They should have somewhere quiet to revise with their own desk.
- Game consoles (e.g. PS4 and Xbox) **must** be removed from your child's bedroom/revision area. **My very strong advice is that this removal starts today and continues until they leave school.**
- Mobile devices (including phones) should be left outside your child's bedroom/ revision area – both while they are revising and at least half an hour before your child goes to bed.
- While access to the internet (e.g. via a PC or laptop) may help your child with their revision (e.g. accessing revision websites), this should only be one part of their approach to revision – and should not be used as a distraction from revision.

If you find it difficult to enforce these important changes please do seek help and support from your child's tutor at school.

Further support

Your child's tutor and Head of House will work with the students, along with their subject teachers, to support their revision for these exams. They will also focus on ensuring that they are as well prepared mentally as they can be for these exams. We recognise the stresses that our students have been under and we will do everything we can to support the students through this period of exams.

I would like to encourage you to contact your son/daughter's tutor or subject teachers if you have any concerns. It is also important that students build relaxation time into their revision programme and get plenty of sleep.

We wish your sons and daughters every success in these exams.

Yours faithfully,

Dr E. J. Newbold

Deputy Head