

Date as posted

Dear Parents,

Year 11 Mock Examinations (Thursday 8 January to Thursday 29 January 2026)

Introduction

As you will be aware from the information provided at the Year 11 Information Evening, Year 11 students will be having one main set of mocks this year. This will take place between Thursday 8th January to Thursday 29 January 2026. Students will sit exams in all their subjects apart from Art & Design during this period.

The timetable for this set of exams is still being worked on but we will make it available to both you and the students as soon as possible. Their teachers have been asked to provide details of which exams they will be sitting and what they need to revise via Google Classroom.

In addition, students studying Art & Design will have their mock examination at the end of November and the mock speaking examinations for languages will take place in February. There will also be a second set of mocks in English in late February. The dates for the mock exam periods are shown in the table below:

Dates	Subjects
Wednesday 3 December and Thursday 4 December 2025	Art & Design
Thursday 8 January to Thursday 29 January 2026	Main mock period for all subjects except Art & Design
Friday 30 January to Thursday 5 February 2026	Languages mock speaking exams
Monday 2 March and Tuesday 3 March 2026	English 2 nd set of mocks

We will provide further details regarding the venues for these exams and the equipment which the students need to bring once the exam timetable has been finalised.

How should my child prepare for these exams?

It is very important that your child prepares thoroughly for these exams. By doing as well as possible, it will help boost their confidence in the run up to next summer's final GCSE exams. If they are unsure about any aspect of their preparation for these exams in a particular subject they should ask their subject teacher.

Many subjects will also be providing additional revision sessions in the run up to these mocks. The timetable for these can be accessed via this [link](#). Please note that not all subjects run these sessions as different subjects approach revision planning in different ways.

The government is also planning to ask schools to have contingency plans in place in case the exams next summer are disrupted again. It is very likely that in such a circumstance we would be required to provide Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) grades as was the case in summer 2020 and 2021. The evidence from these mock exams will form the main basis of this evidence if it is required (along with completed non examined assessments) – and the marks from all the mock exams papers would be used.

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. PS5 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 after the exams next summer.**
- 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.

Some other key 'top revision tips' I would like to pass on include:

- ensure that you put together a realistic revision timetable – with the amount of time spent on revision building up over the next few weeks as less 'normal' homework is set
- aim for 2-3 hours per evening of focused revision in the last few weeks of next term
- cover all subjects within a fortnight and make sure that you devote similar amounts of time to each subject rather than focusing on the ones you are doing better at/ enjoy most
- work in short blocks of time (perhaps 45 minutes at a time) before having a short break
- ensure that revision is active (e.g. testing yourselves/ being tested by others; practising exam questions) rather than simply reading through notes
- use the Christmas holidays to revise – while at the same time building some 'holiday time' into your revision schedule (aim for 3-4 hours of revision per day on most days of the break)

A variety of other revision related resources are accessible on the school website by clicking on this [link](#).

Other examinations and non-examined assessment

In addition to the exams listed above, Year 11 students will also be completing a range of exams and non-examined assessments over the course of the year. These marks will count towards the final grade in the subjects listed below.

Dates	Subjects
Monday 27 November 2025	Music solos (non-examined assessment)
Wednesday 11 February 2026	Music ensembles (non-examined assessment)
March 2026	Drama C2 performance exam
Monday 2 to Friday 6 March 2024	Food Preparation & Nutrition practical (non-examined assessment)
March 2026	Dance performance (non-examined assessment)
Wednesday 22 and Thursday 23 April 2026	Art & Design final exam
Wednesday 22 April - Thursday 30 April 2026	MFL final speaking exams
Late April 2026	GCSE PE moderation (non-examined assessment)

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our Year 11 students a very successful final year at Gillotts School. If you would like to discuss your child's progress further, please arrange a meeting or phone call with their form tutor by contacting the house base directly. I would also like to ask you to put the date of the Year 11 Parents' Consultation Evening in your diary. This will take place from 4pm-7pm on Thursday 12th February 2026 and will be conducted on line.

Yours faithfully

E.J. Newbold

Dr E.J. Newbold
Deputy Head