

October 2021

Dear Student/Parent/Carer,

Year 13 Mock Examinations

The mock examination season will run from Wednesday 1 December to Thursday 16 December and offers students the opportunity to sit unseen papers in examination conditions. This is always an important point in Year 13, enabling students to get further experience of sitting examinations under conditions similar to those which they will face in the summer, helping them to identify areas for further consolidation and giving teachers an understanding of the progress of students.

The outcome of the DFE consultation regarding next summer's external exams has recently been published, the findings of which can be seen in full at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-changes-to-the-assessment-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2022>

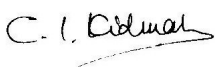
This year Ofqual, the regulatory body in charge of examinations, has made it clear that we should prepare fully for examinations in the summer. However, should this situation change then students' performance in mock examinations would be one of the pieces of evidence taken into account to decide a final grade if this responsibility falls to teachers again. While we are hopeful this won't be the case, the last two years have taught us to prepare for any eventuality. Therefore we want all students to be aware of the importance of proper preparation for the mock examinations.

Ofqual recently announced that **'each awarding organisation will provide advance information on the focus of the content of summer 2022 exams in the majority of subjects at GCSE, AS and A Levels. The policy intention of providing advance information is that it will support students' revision. It will enable teachers to plan to adapt their teaching in the second half of the spring term, if necessary, in the time before the examination, in the context of the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.'** This information will be available on or before 7 February 2022.

To ensure that students have a similar experience in the mock examinations as they will in the summer, teachers will be providing students with a form outlining what they should focus revision on before December. This will follow Ofqual's guidance that **'Students should be told the aspects of the content the assessment will cover, but not the specific questions.'** To ensure complete consistency and fairness, the same form will be given to all students studying a subject and teachers should not be asked any further questions about what to revise.

We expect all students to have this information by half-term so they can begin revision over the holiday if they so wish. We hope this information is helpful in supporting preparation for December's Year 13 mocks.

Yours sincerely,



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