

Wide Horizons High Aspirations

29th January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to update you on the Year 11 mock exams, which represent an important milestone in preparing for the summer's final GCSE examinations. These mocks provide students and teachers with a valuable opportunity to evaluate the progress made so far and to identify the remaining steps needed to ensure every student achieves their full potential.

Over the past weeks and months, Year 11 students have been engaging in extensive preparation both in lessons and through independent study. Teachers have been delivering focused lessons designed to deepen understanding and consolidate knowledge, while students have been revising key topics and practising exam techniques. I would like to thank families for the role you play in supporting this process—your encouragement and involvement are vital in helping students to succeed.

We appreciate the efforts that many students have already made in their revision. For those who are still finding their rhythm, there is plenty of time to prepare thoroughly and take positive steps forward. The core subject mocks will take place during the week commencing 10th February, with option subject mocks following half term, in the week commencing 24th February. These exams are an excellent opportunity for students to strengthen their confidence and build momentum for the summer.

In order to reflect the timings of the real exams, students' afternoon exams will begin at 1pm. To facilitate this, students with an afternoon exam will be permitted to take an early lunch during their period 4 lesson. They will be able to either have their packed lunch or purchase food from the canteen between 12:30-12:50 pm.

Apart from times when they are either in an exam or having an early lunch due to a scheduled afternoon exam, Year 11 will be expected to attend all lessons, where teachers will be supporting them with structured revision. The one exception to this will be Friday 14th February, where students will be dismissed for half term at the end of their afternoon exam; for some students studying Combined Science, this is likely to result in a slightly early dismissal. Following all other afternoon exams, students will be expected to go to their period 5 lesson once they are dismissed from their exam.

To support students in their revision, teachers have set suggested tasks on Satchel and made additional resources available in the Student Room, our online library, which includes video guides and tips on revision strategies. Subject teachers will also be offering after-school catch-up clubs, as outlined in the attached timetable. These sessions provide a valuable opportunity for students to receive additional guidance and structured support, and we strongly encourage all students to take advantage of them. Any student unsure about what or how to revise should speak with their subject teachers or form tutors, who are on hand to provide further guidance.

We understand that this can be a stressful time for students and families. If you have any concerns about your child's wellbeing, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are committed to working together to provide the necessary support.

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Attached to this letter, you will find the Student Handbook. This outlines all the key details regarding exam expectations and procedures. Students will also be able to access further information about their exams via Arbor in the coming days.

Thank you once again for your continued support as we work together to help our Year 11 students achieve their best.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Tucker

Assistant Headteacher

M. June.