



ST. MARY MAGDALENE

C OF E SCHOOL

SECONDARY PHASE

*Excellence through innovation,
founded in faith since 1840.*

FEDERATION EXECUTIVE CO-HEADTEACHERS

Mrs Claire Harrison and Mrs Victoria Wainwright

PRINCIPAL

Mr Razwan Hussain

Tuesday 17th November 2020

Dear parents/carers of Year 11 students,

As you will be aware, your son/daughter will be sitting mock examinations in early December with most exams taking place in the week of 7 December. At the end of this letter, you will find a timetable of the exams and, on page 3, a table showing what each exam will assess.

The importance of mock examinations

These exams will give teachers vital information on each student's strengths, weakness and misconceptions and provide teachers with a strong impression of the student's current working grade and likely attainment in the summer. The mock examinations are an opportunity for students to demonstrate their skills in each of their subjects, as well as a chance to get used to 'exam conditions' before the summer.

All students will receive their mock examination results in January; these grades will play a central role in determining students' grades on their report for the Autumn term, which you will receive in early January, and may be the basis of predicted grades required for Sixth Form applications. Government guidance remains that GCSE examinations will take place this summer, but should these assessments be cancelled, students' mock exam grades are likely to be used as evidence for any 'centre assessed grades' we are required to provide. There is therefore even more reason for students to do their very best to prepare for these mock exams.

Preparing for the mock examinations

As I explained in my recent information video, and in an assembly for Year 11s, students should now have begun their revision. We expect all students to be revising daily, and to be following a revision timetable. I have recommended that students revise by creating notes to summarise their learning; use flashcards to test themselves; and answer past paper questions to implement their knowledge. We know that students are most likely to succeed with your support. Please encourage them, ask them questions about their work, ensure they are well-organised, and make sure they are eating and sleeping well.

Within school, the range of supportive measures discussed in the video continue. In particular, students are encouraged to attend the booster sessions and intervention sessions taking place daily at lunch and after school. Year 11 students can continue to use the library after school every day, and attend breakfast 'self study sessions' before school on Wednesdays.

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Practicalities of the mock examinations

During the period of mock exams, students should continue to arrive at school at the usual time and when they do not have exams, students will attend their regular lessons. In the afternoons, students will be dismissed from school as soon as their exams end; this might be slightly earlier or slightly later than the usual time of 3.15.

I strongly encourage you to provide your child with a watch to help them with their time-keeping during the exam; please also ensure they have all their other equipment. Just as will be the case when students sit their exams this summer, all Year 11s will be required to bring their own equipment, including a black biro pen. Any other equipment required (e.g. pencils, sharpener, calculator, etc) must be stored in a transparent pencil case. Due to government guidance on preventing the spread of disease, we will not be able to give out equipment so it is crucial that students are prepared. Electronic devices (including phones and smart watches) may not be kept in the exam hall and must be handed in prior to the exam. Along with any other valuables, these will be kept in secure storage during the exam. If students are late to an exam, they may be allowed to enter at our discretion. I must make it clear that any student not following the examination regulations will be dealt with accordingly, and may result in students being given a 'U' grade for the examination.

All exams will take place in Sports Hall, with the exception of the Art Assessment on Thursday 3 December which will take place in classrooms all day, and the Biology exam on Friday 4 December which will take place during Science lessons. Those students who have been assessed for special provision in the exams will receive more information and support from Ms Hughes and our inclusion team. Any students with an examination clash will also be spoken to individually.

Thank you for your support; please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Greenwood

Vice Principal

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Mock examination timetable

	AM (9.30)	Time allowed	PM (1.30)	Time allowed
Thursday 3 December	Art Assessment		Art Assessment	5hrs
Friday 4 December	Biology (11.30)			1hr 45m
Monday 7 December	English Language	1hr 45m	Chemistry / Combined Science 1	1hr 45m/ 1hr 30m
Tuesday 8 December	Geography	2hrs	Physics / Combined Science 2	1hr 45m/ 1hr 30m
Wednesday 9 December	History	2hrs	Maths (non-calculator)	1hr 30m
Thursday 10 December	Modern Foreign Languages (French / Spanish)	1hr	RS	1hr 45m
Friday 11 December	Food Prep & Nutrition / DT / Music / Hospitality & Catering	2hrs/2hrs /1hr/1hr	English Literature	1hr 45m
Monday 14 December	Computer Science / Drama	1hr 30m	Maths (calculator)	1hr 30m

Exam content

Subject	Content
Art	Work completed in this session will form part of students' final Art portfolio and contribute to their overall GCSE grade. This is not a mock exam but rather NEA (non-examination assessment) as part of Component 1.
Biology	Cell Biology; Organisation; Infections and response; Bioenergetics
Chemistry	Rates of reaction; Organic Chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of atmosphere; Using resources
Combined Science	Paper 1: Cell structure and transport (Biology); Organisation (Biology); Atomic structure & periodic table (Chemistry); Bonding and structure (Chemistry); Energy (Physics); Electricity (Physics). Paper 2: Infection and response (Biology); Bioenergetics (Biology); Quantitative Chemistry (Chemistry); Chemical changes (Chemistry); Energy Changes (Chemistry); Particle model of matter (Physics); Atomic structure (Physics)
Computer Science	Component 2 Computational Thinking, Algorithms and programming: Data representation; Algorithms; Programming; Testing, Testing and IDE
Design Technology	Unit 1: a summary of all theory content.
Drama	GCSE Drama, AQA, Component 1 – Understanding Drama

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English Language	Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Writing
English Literature	Paper 2: Cluster Poems (Love and Relationships)
Food Prep and Nutrition	Unit 1: a summary of all theory content.
Geography	Paper 1: Section A: Natural Hazards (tectonic, weather and climate change); Section C: Rivers and Coasts. Paper 2: Section B: Changing economic world (The development gap, Nigeria and UK economy); Section C: Resource management (UK food, energy and water and Energy worldwide)
History	Paper 1: The Tower of London. Paper 2: Units 1 and 2 of Living Under Nazi Rule: The Consolidation of Power and The Use of Terror.
Hospitality & Catering	The exam will assess Unit 1 (The Hospitality and Catering Industry); they will also be assessed in their practical skills separately through an NEA.
Maths	Foundation and Higher students will both be assessed on all units up to and including Unit 15 in the Scheme of Work.
Modern Foreign Languages	Paper 3 (Reading): 1. Identity and Culture. 2. Local, national, international and global areas of interest. 3. Current and future study and employment
Music	Unit 1: The Music Industry
Physics	Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; Atomic structure and radiation
Religious Studies	Paper 1: 1. Christian Beliefs 2. Christian Practices 3. Jewish Beliefs 4. Jewish Practices

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