



**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

Dear parents/carers of Year 11 students,

As you will be aware, GCSE examinations begin in mid-May, just thirteen weeks from now; we have published a timetable of all GCSE exams [on our website](#).

Your son/daughter will also be sitting mock GCSE examinations in March. On page 3 of this letter, you will find a timetable of the mock exams and, on page 4, a table showing what each exam will assess. A short explanation of changes to the content on which students will be examined on this summer can be found on pages 5-8; this reflects updates from the exam board provided over recent weeks and it is important your child is familiar with this. In some subjects, there are modular units or NEA taking place prior to the final exams; details of these are on page 6.

As with all assessments at St Mary Magdalene, the mock exams will be used to give teachers vital information on your child's strengths, weakness and misconceptions and enable your child's teachers to support them with their learning over the remaining months of Year 11. The experience of sitting mock exams will also prepare students for the experience of the real thing, and help them to develop their exam skills. As you will be aware, should public exams be cancelled this summer, students' mock exam grades will form the basis of their final GCSE grade.

We expect all students to be revising at home daily in addition to completing homework and attending additional revision classes or tutoring in school. We recommend that students revise by creating notes to summarise their learning; use flashcards to test themselves; and answer past paper questions to implement their knowledge. By revising all their subjects and regularly returning to the same topics, students can make themselves well-prepared for exams. We ask that you help your child to follow a revision timetable, that you ask them questions about their work, support them in being organised, and make sure they are eating and sleeping well.

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 than the usual time of 3.30.

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. Following guidance from the Joint Council for Qualifications, electronic devices such as phones and wristwatches 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.

Those students who have been assessed for special provision in the exams will receive more information and support from Ms Graham 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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C OF E SCHOOLS FEDERATION



## Mock examination timetable: March 2022

<i>In class exams</i>		<b>Time allowed</b>		<b>Time allowed</b>
<b>Thursday 17 March</b>	<b>Period 3-4</b> Biology / Combined Science 1	1hr 45m / 1hr 15m	<b>Period 5</b> Mathematics (calculator 1)	1hr 30m
<i>In Sports Hall</i>	<b>AM (9.30)</b>	<b>Time allowed</b>	<b>PM (2.30)</b>	<b>Time allowed</b>
<b>Monday 21 March</b>	English Language	1hr 45m	Religious Studies	55m
<b>Tuesday 22 March</b>	Maths (calculator 2)	1hr 30m	History	1hr
<b>Wednesday 23 March</b>	Physics / Combined Science 2	1hr 45m/ 1hr 15m	English Literature	50m
<b>Thursday 24 March</b>	Maths (non-calculator)	1hr 30m	French / Spanish	45m (F)/ 1hr (H)
<i>In Sports Hall</i>	<b>AM (9.30)</b>	<b>Time allowed</b>	<b>PM (1.30)</b>	<b>Time allowed</b>
<b>Friday 25 March</b>	Sociology	1hr 45m	Computer Science / Food Preparation & Nutrition	1hr 30m/ 1hr 45m
<b>Monday 28 March</b>	Chemistry / Combined Science 3	1hr 45m/ 1hr 15m	Geography / Drama	1hr 30m/ 1hr 45m
<b>Tuesday 29 March</b>	Design Technology / Music	2hr/ 1hr 15m	Community Languages	1hr-1hr 45m

### Notes

- From 21-24 March, students will follow a normal school timetable; from 25-29 March, students with an exam scheduled in the afternoon will go to lunch at the earlier time of 12.30.
- In some other subjects, a second or third mock exam will take place in class time in the weeks prior to these exams. Students will be given advance notice of this in class and via Satchel.

## Exam content

Subject	Content
Biology	Paper 1 (contents of the exam will be communicated to students and parents via physical copies and Satchel)
Chemistry	Paper 1 (contents of the exam will be communicated to students and parents via physical copies and Satchel)
Combined Science	Biology Paper 1, Chemistry Paper 1 and Physics Paper 1 (contents of each exam will be communicated to students and parents via physical copies and Satchel)
Computer Science	Component 2 – Computational thinking, algorithms and programming
Design Technology	Unit 1: Core technical principles, Specialist technical principles, Designing and making principles
Drama	Component 1: Understanding Drama
English Language	Language Paper Two: Viewpoints and Perspectives
English Literature	Literature Paper 1N- 19 <sup>th</sup> century novel
Food Preparation and Nutrition	Component 1: Principles of Food Preparation and Nutrition
Geography	Paper 1: Section A (The challenge of natural hazards), Section B (Ecosystems) and Section C (UK landscapes: rivers and coasts)
History	Paper 1: Elizabethan England
Mathematics	Paper 1: Non-calculator; Paper 2: Calculator; Paper 3: Calculator
Modern Foreign Languages	<i>French and Spanish</i> : Paper 3: Reading <i>Community Languages</i> : Paper 4: Writing
Music	Component 3: Appraising Music
Physics	Paper 1 (contents of the exam will be communicated to students and parents via physical copies and Satchel)
Religious Studies	Paper 1: Christian Beliefs; Jewish Beliefs
Sociology	Paper 2: Crime and Deviance and Social Stratification

## Specific changes to assessment in your child's subjects this year

Please note that detailed information about each subject's GCSE course content and assessments can be found on the Curriculum pages of the school's website.

Subject	Exam board and code	Changes
English Literature	AQA 8702	Students will sit two examination papers in English Literature. Paper 1's units consist of <i>19<sup>th</sup> Century text and the AQA Love and Relationships cluster of poems</i> . This will be assessed as a one hour and forty minutes assessment. Paper 2's units consist of <i>Shakespeare and Unseen Poetry</i> . This will be assessed as a one hour and forty-five-minute assessment. Students will not be assessed on the Modern Drama component, <i>An Inspector Calls</i> .
English Language	AQA 8700	Exams will go ahead as planned. Students will be assessed on their ability to write articles in Q5 of Language Paper 2. The exam board no longer requires students to record their speech for the Speaking and Listening component.
Mathematics	Edexcel 1MA1	In Maths, students will still be assessed on a range of curriculum content, sitting three papers each of 90 minutes length. The exam board have produced a formula sheet that students will be given and have released a list of topics that will be covered on each assessment which will be shared with students.
Combined Science	AQA 8464	Students will be given a formulae sheet in GCSE Combined Science covering all the equations required in Physics. Advance information regarding which topics will be focused on in the mocks and their GCSE summer assessments will be provided to students both in physical copies and on Satchel prior to the examinations.
Biology	AQA 8461	Advance information regarding which topics will be focused on in the mocks and their GCSE summer assessments will be provided to students both in physical form and on Satchel prior to the examinations.
Chemistry	AQA 8462	Advance information regarding which topics will be focused on in the mocks and their GCSE summer assessments will be provided to students both in physical form and on Satchel prior to the examinations.
Physics	AQA 8463	Students will be given a formulae sheet in GCSE Physics contain all formulas that students will be required to use. Advance information regarding which topics will be focused on in the mocks and their GCSE summer assessments will be provided to students both in physical form and on Satchel prior to the examinations.
Religious Studies	AQA 8062NA	Exams will go ahead as planned. The exam board has given additional information regarding topics. This will be released to students in lesson and on Satchel. This will include guidance on which topics to focus on within Religious Studies along with guidance regarding topics which while no longer technically part of the assessment may still be relevant to study.
Art, Craft and Design	Edexcel 1AD0	Art and Design usually consists of one internally assessed component (completed over the year) and an externally moderated component (completed in exam conditions). However, this year, the externally moderated component has

		been removed. Therefore, students' grade will be based only on the internally assessed component.
Computer Science	OCR J277	The exam board have provided advanced information about the focus of exams. Component 1: there have been changes made to the assessment; only these topics will be in the exam: 1.1 System Architecture – architecture of CPU 1.2 Memory & Storage – Primary & secondary storage, units, data storage & compression 1.3 Computer networks connections & protocols- Networks & topologies, Wired and wireless networks, protocols & layers 1.4 Network security – Identifying and preventing vulnerabilities 1.6 Ethical – Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impact Component 2: no changes
Design and Technology	AQA 8552	Changes have been made to the NEA section of GCSE Design and Technology. The section entitled <i>Realising ideas</i> has been reduced from 20 to 10 marks, with students no longer marked on their making skills and no longer required to produce a final prototype. The section entitled 'Analysing and evaluation' has been reduced from 20 to 15 marks, with no expectation to test the final prototype.
Drama	AQA 8261	The written exam will go ahead as planned. There has been a slight amendment to the NEA assessments, with the option to submit a monologue for component 2.
Food Preparation and Nutrition	Eduqas 3560	Changes have been made to the NEA section of GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition. NEA 1 has been removed, NEA 2 was released earlier, and the number of dishes each student has to prepare has reduced. As a consequence, students are not expected to demonstrate all of the skills and techniques listed in the subject content.
French	AQA 8658	In French, students will be assessed through formal speaking tests, in the normal way. The format of the test will be the same for each tier and will consist of three parts: a role play, photo-card discussion and general conversation (with a supervised preparation time of 12 minutes). Marks for the speaking skill will be equally weighted, at 25%, alongside the three other language skills of listening, reading and writing. The exam board have confirmed that there will be an extra optional question in the writing assessment (Paper 4) to help students to focus on fewer themes in their writing.
Geography	AQA 8035	In Geography, students will complete all of paper 1 Section A (the challenge of natural hazards), Section B (Ecosystems) and Section C (UK landscapes: rivers and coasts). Within paper 2, section A (urban issues and challenges) will be assessed. However, students will have an option to not answer questions on section B (the changing economic world) or section C (the challenges of resource management). As a school, we will be choosing to revise section C, not section B. Students are no longer required to complete two fieldwork enquires and therefore will not have any questions on these in paper 3. They will however still have questions based around generic fieldwork and the issue evaluation (booklet released 22 March).
History	OCR J411	In History, students will be assessed only on the following four units, each of which will be assessed as a one-hour examination:

		<i>The People's Health 1250-2000; Elizabethan England 1580-1603; The Making of America 1789-1900; and Living Under Nazi Rule: 1933-1945.</i> Students will not be examined on one of the five units ( <i>History Around Us</i> ).
Music	Eduqas C660QS	Exams will go ahead as planned for Component 3: Appraising Music. This component is assessed via a listening examination across the four areas of study: Area of study 1: Musical Forms and Devices Area of study 2: Music for Ensemble Area of study 3: Film Music Area of study 4: Popular Music
Sociology	AQA 1PE0	In Sociology, both exams will go ahead as planned. The exam board has provided advance information about the focus of these exams. These changes have been released and students have been made aware. The changes only relate to extended response questions, and so students must revise all topics as they will be tested on the entirety of the course. However, essay questions across both papers will only cover the eight topics specified by AQA.
Spanish	AQA 8658	In Spanish, students will be assessed through formal speaking tests, in the normal way. The format of the test will be the same for each tier and will consist of three parts: a role play, photo-card discussion and general conversation (with a supervised preparation time of 12 minutes). Marks for the speaking skill will be equally weighted, at 25%, alongside the three other language skills of listening, reading and writing. The exam board have confirmed that there will be an extra optional question in the writing assessment (Paper 4) to help students to focus on fewer themes in their writing.
BTEC Digital Information Technology	Edexcel 603/2740/6	There has been a reduction in the content assessed, so Learning Aim A will not be assessed.
BTEC Sport	Edexcel 600/4779/3	Students who missed their online exam during lockdown in January 2021 will be awarded a Teacher Assessed Grade for that unit based on the teacher's judgement using relevant evidence, i.e. work and assessments completed in Y10. All other units will be assessed as planned.

Some subjects have important assessments taking place before the final GCSE exams that will play a significant role in deciding your child's final grade. Some of these are NEA (non-examination assessment) which is similar to coursework. Please see details of these below and if you have any questions about this, please contact the school to speak to your child's teacher.

Art, Craft and Design	NEA Component 1 is ongoing all year and forms 100% of the GCSE grade. The second assessment point will be in the first week after the Easter holiday.
Design and Technology	NEA is now complete.
Drama	NEA is now complete.
Food Preparation and Nutrition	NEA is now complete.
Music	Students will submit one performance and one composition by 28/2/2022
BTEC DIT	Component 1: Exploring user interface design principles & project planning - Learning aim B & C Deadline – 04/03/22

	Component 2: Collecting, presenting & interpreting data - Learning aim B & C Deadline – 29/04/22
BTEC Sport	Internal Assessment dates are below: Unit 3: Learning Aim C – 06/03/2022                  Learning Aim D – 19/03/2022 Unit 6: Learning Aim A – 30/03/2022                  Learning Aim B – 20/04/2022 Learning Aim C – 16/05/2022