



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, your son/daughter will be sitting mock examinations in early December with most exams taking place in the week beginning Monday 5th 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

Mock exams are vital in preparing students for GCSE examinations that will take place in the summer. The mock exam results will be shared with you and your child in January and will also go towards forming your child's predicted grades, which are required for Sixth Form applications. There is therefore even more reason for students to do their very best to succeed in these mock exams.

As with all assessments at St Mary Magdalene, these exams will be used to give teachers vital information on each student's strengths, weakness and misconceptions and enable your child's teachers to support them with their learning.

Preparing for the mock examinations

Students should now have begun their revision. We expect all students to be revising daily, and to be following a revision timetable. We recommend that students revise by creating notes to summarise their learning; using flashcards to test themselves; and answering 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.

All Year 11 students will soon be having an interview with a member of the management team to discuss their academic progress this year, and to support them with their post-16 options, and this will also be an opportunity to discuss the mock exams further.

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 than the usual time of 3.20.

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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.

All exams will take place in Sports Hall, with the exception of the Art Non-Examination Assessment (NEA) on Thursday 8 and Friday 9 December which will take place in CH7, and the Music exam on Friday 9 December which will take place in LE14. 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,

Ross O'Brien
Assistant Principal

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Mock examination timetable

Thursday 8 and Friday 9 December	Art - NEA - all day - CH7			
	AM (9.10)	Time allowed	PM (1.15)	Time allowed
Monday 5 December	English Language	1hr 45m	Chemistry / Combined Science 1	1hr 45m/ 1hr 15m
Tuesday 6 December	Maths (calculator)	1hr 30m	Religious Studies	1hr 45m
Wednesday 7 December	History	2hrs	English Literature	1hr 40m
Thursday 8 December	Biology	1hr 45m		
Friday 9 December	Geography / Drama	2hrs/ 1hr 45m	Design Technology / Music	2hrs / 1hr 15m
Monday 12 December	Maths (non-calculator)	1hr 30m	Physics / Combined Science 2	1hr 45m/ 1hr 15m
Tuesday 13 December	Modern Foreign Languages (French / Spanish) / Sociology	45 m (F), 1hr (H) / 1hr 45m	Computer Science / BTEC DIT / Food Prep & Nutrition	1hr 30m / 1hr 30m / 1hr 45m

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	Paper 2: Homeostasis & Response, Inheritance, Variation and Evolution (Ecology not included)
Chemistry	Paper 2: Rates of reaction, Organic Chem, Chemical analysis, Chemistry of the atmosphere & Using resources
Combined Science	Paper 1 (Biology Paper 2): Homeostasis & Response, Inheritance, Variation and Evolution, Ecology. Paper 2 (Chemistry Paper 2): Rates of reaction, Organic Chem, Chemical analysis, Chem of atmosphere and Using resources ('Using resources' is not included on the Higher paper).
Computer Science	Component 1: System Architecture, Data representation, Network protocols and network security. Component 2: Algorithms and ethical & cultural issues.
Design Technology	Full GCSE paper on all theory content: 1. Core technical principles 2. Specialist technical principles 3. Designing and making principles
DIT	Component 3: Modern technologies and impact; threats to data and how to stay safe; responsible use of IT; legal and ethical issues; flowcharts.
Drama	Component 1: Understanding Drama; Component 1: Understanding Drama - analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers
English Language	Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

English Literature	Literature Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry (Section A & B only)
Food Prep and Nutrition	Full GCSE paper on all theory content: 1. Food commodities 2. Principles of nutrition 3. Diet and good health 4. The science of food 5. Where food comes from 6. Cooking and food preparation
Geography	Paper 1: Section A: Natural Hazards (tectonic, weather and climate change); Section B: Ecosystems (hot deserts and tropical rainforests); Section C: Rivers and Coasts. Paper 2: Section C: Challenges of resource management
History	Paper 1: The Making of America. Paper 2: Units 1 and 2 of Living Under Nazi Rule: The Consolidation of Power and The Use of Terror.
Mathematics	Students sitting the Higher paper will be assessed on Units 1-15. Students sitting the Foundation paper will be assessed on Units 1-12.
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	Component 3: Appraising. This component is assessed via a listening examination across the four areas of study (1: Musical Forms and Devices; 2: Music for Ensemble; 3: Film Music; 4: Popular Music)
Physics	Paper 2: Forces, Waves, Magnetism & Electromagnetism and Space
Religious Studies	1. Christian Beliefs 2. Jewish Practices 3. Religion and Life 4. Human Rights and Social Justice
Sociology	Paper 2: both sections will focus on Crime and Deviance and Research Methods