



18th February 2022

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Dear Parents & Guardians

I hope that all Year 13 students take some time over the half-term break to rest as well as to carefully prepare for their mock examinations.

Thank you for your continued support of your child as it is now time to put into practice the revision timetables and methods that each student has discussed with their form tutors or mentors. Using past papers and questions to apply knowledge and skills then comparing responses to mark schemes or models is a highly effective way of preparing for the mocks; flash-cards, mind-maps, recall quizzes can all be helpful when used to help embed knowledge, but application in timed conditions is key.

Students are on study leave for the first two weeks from Tuesday 1st March to Friday 11th March so that their focus is entirely on the mock examinations. Please refer to the page we have set up for the mock exams for more details: <https://sites.google.com/arden.solihull.sch.uk/year13mockexams/year-13-mock-exams>

The entire Sixth Form Team were delighted by the way the student body supported us in the wearing of masks when they were government policy and through testing, reporting and isolating when necessary. Dialing into lessons has become familiar and the discipline and determination shown has been admirable. We look forward after half term to “live” assemblies and being able to meet as both whole year groups and the whole Sixth Form.

Windows and doors have been open throughout winter and this has led some students to wearing loose jumpers and, in some cases, hoodies. Although we have been understanding, I need to take this opportunity to reiterate our dress code and our expectations. In cold weather, jumpers are only permitted under the students’ jackets, not as a replacement. The full dress code can be found on our website here: <https://sites.google.com/arden.solihull.sch.uk/sixth-form-information-pack/home#h.bfz2uhzd36g5>

Students must come into the mock exams dressed appropriately and ready to do their best. On Monday March 14th any student who is still wearing clothing that does not meet our published standards, which are part of the Sixth Form Agreement, will be warned by their Form Tutor. Those who choose to ignore this request and subsequently dress inappropriately, will be required to speak to their Head of Year. If, after both requests, students are still unable to follow the agreed dress code, they will be asked to meet me and will have to then go home to get changed. It is our firm belief that the ethos and culture of Arden Sixth Form is enhanced by using wearing smart attire business dress and that by setting the right tone we will achieve the best outcomes for our students.

I very much hope that everyone is able to take a little time to relax over what can be a challenging period of revision. We look forward to seeing all our students on Tuesday 1st March.

Yours faithfully

Mr D White & Mr A Pillinger
Head of Sixth Form & Head of Year 13

