



15th February 2023

STATION ROAD KNOWLE SOLIHULL B93 0PT
01564 773 348
WWW.ARDEN.SOLIHULL.SCH.UK

Dear Parents/Guardians of Year 11 Students

Year 11 Mock Examinations and Assessments

Thank you for your support with the previous set of Year 11 mock examinations. Next half term students will sit mock exams in English, Maths and Science. They will sit smaller in class assessments in other subjects. There is a lot of important information in this letter, to make it easier to access we have used subheadings. You may also wish to save this somewhere safe to refer back to closer to the time.

Mock Examination Dates

All Year 11 students will sit mock exams in English, Maths and Science on **Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th of March.**

Please note that this coincides with the industrial action scheduled for those two days. **All Year 11 students are therefore expected to attend school on these two days.** Additional details will be sent out after half term regarding the other year groups and these strike days.

Smaller assessments will take place in class for all other subjects in the fortnight after half term, between **28th February to 10th March.**

Class teachers will have already communicated with students about the content of these examinations and assessments to aid revision. Students should speak to their class teacher in the first instance if they have any questions about these.

Mock Examination Logistics and Malpractice

As communicated earlier in the year, we would like to draw your attention to the policy regarding mobile phones, watches and equipment. The school is not responsible for looking after mobile phones. Mobile phones must not be brought into the exam room so we therefore ask that they are left at home. If a child takes a mobile phone into an examination room, it is considered malpractice. We would be duty bound to inform the exam board of any such occurrences - failure to report such incidences is considered to be malpractice on the part of the school.

Students are not permitted to take notes or any other written information into the examination rooms, even if it is irrelevant to the examination. This includes writing on hands/arms/legs or bottle labels. Again, this is considered malpractice and would need to be reported to the exam board.

The consequences of premeditated malpractice are severe. These consequences are not set by school, they follow a set of rules determined by The Joint Council for Qualifications. The lowest level sanction is removal of all marks for an exam paper - for example, if a student was to have accidentally taken notes into an exam and did not use them. If a student plans to cheat and uses notes in an examination the consequence would be disqualification from that subject



and depending on the nature of the incident could include disqualification from other subjects. In the case of disqualification, the student will receive no grades for those subjects and there is no opportunity to appeal the judgment. Further information about malpractice and its consequences can be found here:

https://www.icq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Malpractice_Feb23_v1.pdf

We also ask that students attend their exams with all the equipment they need for the exam in question; we are not able to lend equipment to students who forget to bring their calculator or maths equipment with them.

We will again be speaking to all Year 11 students in assemblies to explain the 'dos and don'ts' associated with conduct in examinations.

Purpose of Mock Examinations

Mock examinations and in class assessments are a crucial process that help identify the strengths and weaknesses of students and also help us to plan the learning your child will experience as they prepare for their final examinations. Experience informs us that this is an invaluable opportunity that serves to provide all parties - students, staff and you as parents - with an essential insight into current performance and steps that need to be taken in the run up to summer examinations.

Our children are in regular discussion with their teachers and each other about how to further improve and they are aware of the significance and benefit of these results. We would really appreciate you reinforcing the importance of the mock process – that they will be able to fully experience the examination conditions and have an opportunity to get feedback on how they would perform in a final GCSE examination. Parental involvement and support are fundamental elements of the success our students enjoy. We very much hope that you will continue this in stressing the significance of the mock exams, supporting revision and helping us begin the final push towards a very important last few months of GCSE study.

Support with Revision and Wellbeing

Our work in supporting students to prepare thoroughly will, of course, continue throughout the remainder of the year. Our Year 11 revision video, which was previously sent to students via Edulink, provides information on how best to support your child with revision and can be found on the following link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/12_elb3oL3eBpTIWH3dB9qx81KlrQoJY1/view?usp=sharing

For subject specific advice and revision resources please use the following link:

<https://sites.google.com/arden.solihull.sch.uk/year-11-revision-resources>

Subject teachers have provided revision lists through the year and will have informed students on how to best prepare for these next set of mock examinations and assessments.

Whilst mock examinations are an important opportunity for learning in your child's education, we are also aware that Year 11 brings understandable pressure to pupils. Therefore, we would like to take the opportunity to remind you, that should you be worried about your child's emotional wellbeing, our pastoral team are happy to offer support and signposting where appropriate.

Please don't hesitate to contact your child's Form Tutor, or Mr Last, Head of Year 11.

Also available to all young people aged from 11-25 in the borough, is an online counselling service called KOOTH. This also has self-help resources to improve resilience when facing exams or other stressful situations. It can be accessed at the following website:

<https://www.kooth.com/>

External (Summer) Examinations

For more information about dates for external examinations in the summer please see the school website <http://www.arden.solihull.sch.uk/information/examination-information/> which will be updated as and when dates are confirmed by Ofqual and the Awarding Bodies. The Provisional Exam Timetable for summer 2022 notes GCSE exams will be from Monday 15th May to Monday 19th June 2023, with a national contingency day on Wednesday 28th June. Please do not book a holiday on the contingency day, in the event of a national incident, any postponed examinations will take place on that day.

Once again, we would like to thank you for your ongoing support for your child and for us as a school in this crucial year.

Yours sincerely



Linda Page
Deputy Headteacher