



16<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Year 13 Parents/Carers

## **Year 13 Mock Examination Week - January 2021**

To help students with the revision process, to experience sitting practice papers in timed conditions, and to assess their progress, we are holding a Year 13 Mock Examination Week from **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021**. Careful revision and preparation for Mock Examination Week is an important steppingstone in challenging and supporting students to achieve their best in the final examinations in the summer. We launched Mock Week with students this morning in assembly and we have an external study skills company coming into school on Monday to enable students to improve their revision strategies.

At this time of year, parents often ask how many hours of revision students should be completing at home in order to be successful. If students are making productive use of their study periods at school to complete their homework, a couple of hours focused on revision and past paper practice each evening Monday to Thursday, with a longer period over one day at the weekend, is a good rule of thumb. Given the constraints on all our lives at the moment, student wellbeing remains our firm priority. In order to maintain a healthy balance, we recommend students have one complete day away from their studies at the weekend so they can rest.

For Mock Week, students will be provided with a mock examination timetable as well as a revision planner. Students will have study leave for the whole of Mock Week to help them revise for their mock examinations. This means students may choose to study at home and come into school for their examinations only. Equally, students are most welcome to come into school to study in the Study Centre or Common Room and should sign in and out if they choose this option.

Students should line up outside the library promptly at 8.30am for the morning examination session and 11.55am for the afternoon session. Please be aware that occasionally mock examinations run past the end of the school day, particularly if students have extra time. Students should check their timetables carefully and make alternative arrangements to get home, if applicable.

There are a small number of subjects for which at this stage a mock examination is not appropriate, as the students have been working on coursework to date. In these subjects, teachers will be inviting students into school during the week for coursework clinics or extra lessons and providing students with work to complete independently at home. If students have a day at the end of the week with no examinations, they could spend some time researching their options for next year or attending a virtual university applicant day.

We will be holding a Mock Results Assembly in the last week of the January/February half term when students will receive the results of their mock examinations. Teachers and students will then be using the results to review their progress to date as well as reflecting on what needs to be done to move forward. Teachers will also be able to share this information with you at **Year 13 Parents' Evening on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February**.

We know that at this time of year, employers are sometimes keen for students to extend their part-time employment hours, particularly over the holiday period. We have talked to Year 13 in assembly about the importance of using their holidays first and foremost, for rest and relaxation with their families and friends, but also making the time to prepare for their mock examinations, and to prioritise these over employment hours.

If you have any questions about Year 13 Mock Week or your son/daughter needs any further support, please do not hesitate to contact either of us at school.

Yours sincerely

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Head of Year 13

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Head of Sixth Form

R: SIXTH FORM/Mocks/2021/Year 13 Mock Letter January 2021