

3 May 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

As you are no doubt aware, this time next year your child will be commencing their final GCSE examinations. It is certainly true to say that the period of examinations, between May and June, is an extremely rigorous test of pupils' knowledge, understanding and stamina. There are often days when two or even three examinations are scheduled and these are externally determined and cannot be altered – pupils have to learn to cope with the demands.

It is for this reason that, while the Sports Halls are set up for the GCSE examinations, we also schedule mock examinations for Year 10 pupils. Your child has little, if any, experience of taking examinations in the formality of the Sport Hall with its procedures and strict JCQ (Joint Council for Qualifications) guidelines. It is important that, by the time the terminal examinations arrive next May 2024, your child has had experience of practising examinations under formal conditions.

Consequently, please find enclosed an outline of the twelve days' mock period starting on Thursday, 22 June and ending on Friday, 7 July. This is shorter than the final examination period and contains fewer examinations than your child will be faced with in 2024. If pupils are not in examinations they will still be in normal lessons during this period.

I realise that your child may not necessarily welcome the mock period but I know, from experience, that they will benefit from it enormously, not just in practising the examinations in 'real' conditions but also in judging how much progress they are making. I will outline the practicalities to the year group in an assembly nearer the time.

Yours faithfully



Mr W Wharton
Deputy Headteacher