

17th May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Year 10 Mock Examinations

I am writing to inform you of the Year 10 mock examination period that will begin on Tuesday 22nd June 2021 and run until Friday 2nd July 2021 inclusive. I have included the timetable so that you can see which examinations your child will sit and thereby help prepare them at home in the coming weeks. You will see that most subjects are represented but, obviously, not all pupils study every subject so, in preparation, it would be helpful for your child to make a personalised timetable in order to focus revision.

As you will know, the Government cancelled this year's GCSE examinations because of the effects of the pandemic and Year 11 teachers are currently gathering evidence in order to award Teacher Assessed Grades for the current Year 11 pupils. In planning for next year, however, we need to assume that formal examinations will return for your child. This may entail a reduction in content because of the amount of time pupils have been out of school but, at this point in time, exact details about next year's examinations are yet to be decided by Ofqual.

As mentioned, we are assuming that your child will sit a suite of externally-set examinations in the summer of 2022. With this in mind, we are holding the mock period in June to acclimatise your child to the formality of the examination process as well as to gain a measure of their current progress. This will be very useful to their teachers when planning programmes of study for September onwards in order to give them the best chance of success. As a point of information, we also normally hold mocks in December of Year 11 and a reduced set of mocks in March of Year 11. I will communicate with parents nearer to the time of these examinations as, mindful of last year's ever changing government guidance, we are aware that circumstances may well change.

I would appreciate it if you could emphasise to your child that the Year 10 mocks are formal examinations and that we are bound by examination rules and protocols. They are likely to be invigilated by external invigilators whom the pupils do not know as this is a JCQ (Joint Council for Qualifications) requirement. Once they enter the examination halls (Sports Hall/new Gym) they must not communicate with each other until they leave the examination hall and they cannot leave until the examination has officially finished, even if they have completed everything they can.

I will speak separately to the pupils about what to bring and where to assemble on each day but, in essence, they should:

- Bring their own equipment (pens, pencils, erasers, rulers, calculators) as these cannot be leant out by the invigilators
- Bring these items in a clear plastic wallet with no writing on it
- Ensure that no mobile phones or smart watches are taken into the examination hall
- Ensure that if they bring a bottle of water it has no label on it
- Understand that their normal timetable might be different and that, due to the duration of some examinations, break might be affected
- Understand that they must not attend school if they are displaying any of the symptoms of COVID- 19 (In such cases, we will aim to re-schedule any examination missed if possible)



Your child has not sat such examinations before at Springfield but it is important that they experience formal assessments in this way so that next year they can face the summer series of exams with confidence and focus. By starting in Year 10, I hope that next year will not be at all daunting and they can approach their GCSE exams with every chance of success.

Finally, I would also like to draw your attention to the timescale for the issuing of the next Year 10 Progress Report. Due to the enforced lateness of the mock time period in late June, we are holding an assessment week in the last week of this half term, week beginning Monday 24th May. Assessments will not be set in every subject but will be sat in timetabled lessons and will help inform the Year 10 Progress Report issued on Friday 18th June. Parents might like to consider the Year 10 Progress Report as a 'snapshot' of where pupils are now while the results of the mocks that follow will help point forward to next year as outlined above.

Yours faithfully

Mr W Wharton
Deputy Headteacher

Enc. Mock Exam Timetable