



Plymouth High School for Girls

"For life, not school, we learn"

24th September 2020

Dear Students and Parents,

GCSE Mock Exams: Monday 30th November -16th December 2020

I am writing to give you information about the arrangements for the mock examinations. This letter offers advice on how you should prepare for the examinations and the support available to you.

Why do the mock examinations matter?

- ☉ Your mocks will give you a practice run helping you to gauge how well prepared you are for your real GCSE examinations which will be held in May and June 2021. The outcome of your GCSE examinations will shape what you are able to do in the next stage of your education, training or employment.
- ☉ As those final GCSE grades are based solely on examinations in most subjects, you need to prepare for the mock examinations as if they were the real thing so that you can get an accurate picture of how well you are performing.
- ☉ The mock examinations provide very important information for your teachers. The mock results will give us an accurate indication of your examination performance helping teachers to support you effectively in preparation for your summer examinations.

What are the arrangements for the mock examinations?

For the reasons outlined above your mock examinations are a crucial step in the preparations for next May and June. We have therefore organised them to ensure that the examinations are as close to the real thing as possible:

- ☉ The mock examinations run from Monday 30th November -16th December 2020
- ☉ Most examinations will take place in the main hall, for some examinations there will be additional rooms used in various locations around the school.
- ☉ You will be issued with a personalised examination timetable after half term telling you the date and time of each examination.

How should you prepare for the mocks?

1. If you have not done so already, you should start revising. Little and often will help to make ideas and concepts stick.

2. Prepare a revision timetable, but be realistic. It can be demoralising to be overly ambitious with your plan, then struggle to meet your own targets.
3. Ensure that you are clear about what content will be covered in the examination for each subject. Your teachers will help you with this.
4. Carry out an evaluation of your subject knowledge and identify areas about which you feel less confident.
5. Build your confidence in these areas using notes, revision guides or by speaking to your teachers.
6. Attempting practice questions, making and using flashcards, engagement with online revision tools and talking to your teachers will all help you to become more confident with subject content for the examination.
7. Get friends and family to help you revise and to test you. The more regularly you review your learning, the more likely it is to stick.
8. Practise past examination questions in timed conditions. As you do more questions, you will notice that you become more efficient.

How will the school support you?

- We will provide advice on how to revise effectively as well as how to produce a revision timetable, this will be done in lessons and in tutor time.
- If you need help, speak to your teachers, they are there to help you!
- Your teachers will provide you with a revision list and accompanying revision material to help support you in preparing for the examinations. This will be made available to you via google classroom. The revision resources will comprise a reduced list of the GCSE content so that you can focus your revision on a portion of the full GCSE specifications within each subject. In order to give you a realistic mock experience, you may not be assessed on all the material in the list. However, everything on the list is important and worth revising because you may be assessed on it in the summer.

Results will not be given to you in lessons by subject teachers, instead they will be published during a results event on 21st January 2021. This means that you will get your mock results in a similar way to how you will get your real GCSE results. Our plan is to make the whole mock experience similar to the real thing so that you can learn from it and be better prepared for the examination process in the summer.

Finally, remember how important these examinations are.

Work hard to ensure that your mock grades represent your best effort.

We know that you want to achieve the best grades you possibly can next summer and we are here to support you.

If you need any further help or advice regarding your mock examinations please do not hesitate to speak to your teachers, your Head of Year or myself.

Yours sincerely,



Miss Donna Roughton

Assistant Headteacher