



23rd November 2021

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

I do hope that you are keeping well and that as the cold nights draw in, you and your family are looking forward to the festive period.

Year 13 students have been given their mock examination timetables this week. These examinations will take place on our return to school after the Christmas break. Whilst we are mindful that the three weeks after Christmas will be demanding, we have also been mindful not to extend this period of assessment as we want to maximise the lesson time for students throughout the whole of year 13.

It is important that the mock examinations are viewed as a learning experience, not just as a means of teachers making formal predictions about your child's progress. Your child has been affected by the pandemic since half way through year 11. They missed face to face lesson time during lockdown in year 12 and were also deprived of the experience of sitting formal examinations for their GCSE's, so it is important that the students use this coming mock period to practise both their revision planning and skills, in order to help prepare them for the summer series of examinations.

Students are encouraged to plan their revision with a timetable, think about how they can summarise their learning using flashcards, revision sheets, thinking maps and working through past paper examination questions. Staff have published revision lists to help support your child with their revision on TEAMS alongside revision material.

Most students will have two examinations in one day at some point in the mock period, there is no way around this without extending the mock examination period. Two examinations on one day could happen in the summer series of examinations where the examination timetable of public examinations is outside of our control. It is important that students consider how best to prepare for days such as these.

The best way to support your child as they approach their mocks is to encourage them to work smartly. This means sticking to a reasonable revision timetable and using strategies during revision that will make a difference. Self-testing is key; learning key facts and ideas, completing examination questions, writing practice essays etc. Learners retain ideas and understanding when explaining or teaching

others, so encouraging your child to talk you through their work can help them organise their thoughts and identify potential areas of weakness. Students should be mindful of the amount of time they are spending in one sitting when revising. Better to schedule a number of shorter periods with rest breaks than attempt a marathon session. When students are self-testing and re-testing significant areas of the curriculum, there is greater impact if the re-testing is on a different day to the original testing, so the timetable plays an important role here.

We will continue to support and encourage your child at school and thank you for your help as we prepare year 13 for their mocks and, eventually, their A' Level examinations.

Kind regards



Miss Donna Roughton
Assistant Headteacher