



Please read: Y11 Mock Examinations

Dear Parents and Carers

Following some parental questions regarding how our mock examinations will run for both students in school and those self-isolating, please find below a response to explain our rationale, in these unprecedented times, and answer any question you may have regarding the process.

Our mock examinations started this morning at 9.00am. We have a small number of students who are having to complete their mock examinations at home, which has brought into question the rationale behind these examinations. The main principle of a mock is for an individual student, their teacher and parents to understand the current strengths to be celebrated and weaknesses to be addressed before the final exam season is reached.

Concerns in the event of examination be cancelled:

The main area of concern is that should we end up with Centre Assessed Grades this summer a child who has sat their mocks at home might have taken advantage of the situation and gained an unfair mark which artificially improves the centre assessed grade given to them. **This might not even happen.**

'A wide range of data and other evidence'

Centre assessed grades last year were a rigorous process that took into account **a wide range of data and other evidence**. No single aspect decided the grade awarded in each subject to each student last summer. Instead each student was discussed individually using evidence to inform the professional judgement of the teacher based on the **quality of classwork and homework across the whole course, cross trust assessments, mocks and ongoing in class assessments** to arrive at a grade that was then moderated within the department and across our Trust schools.

In this situation were to occur again then as part of the process the difference in mock sittings would be well known and the subsequent weight given to this set of mocks grade within this judgement would take into account whether the exam was sat in school or not.

Reasons why mocks must continue for students self isolating at home:

- 1) **Loss of lesson time** - For those students self isolating, they will be off school for the whole mock period. They would need to take a mock in their subjects upon their return which means they would potentially lose another two weeks of lessons. By this time they could also have found out the content of papers from other students or we would have to write a second new set of mocks.
- 2) **Feedback** - the most important reason we sit mock examinations is the ability for every student to get some form of feedback on their progress. It is better that students sit in the same mock as their peers so that future teaching is not compromised and feedback etc. can be consistent.
- 3) **Students are not in competition with each other over their mocks** so one student's result doesn't affect the outcome of others. It is important each student receives feedback relevant for them that identifies what they need to do to improve.
- 4) **The English mocks** will held back and be done in school when they return so that students do get an experience of the exam hall in preparation for their summer exams
- 5) There are **no lessons delivered during mock exam sittings** so students would be at home with nothing to do.
- 6) Students have a **second set of mocks in March** which also provide a measure of progress, feedback and areas to improve

How the mocks will operate at home for the self-isolated students

- 1) The GCSE google classroom will release papers to students at the same time as the exam starts in school and they are expected to turn in their script immediately when the exam ends.
- 2) Parents and students are expected to set up exam conditions at home. Whilst we understand this cannot be guaranteed we trust both parents and students to manage this in the vast majority of cases.
- 3) All mocks will be marked to the same standard but the ones taken at home will be recorded as not under school based exam conditions.

If you have an individual question regarding your child, please do not hesitate to get in contact with the school.

For parents who have got in contact, we hope this letter provides clarity that while these are challenging times, the key message is needs to be for all students who sit their mocks, whether at home or in school, is that they **try their very best, with the opportunity to revise and sit examination papers to obtain high value feedback from their teachers.**

Yours sincerely

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