



Year 11 Mock Examinations 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will be aware, we begin our written Year 11 mock examination period on Monday 4th December.

This is an opportunity to allow our young people to get a sense of what to expect in the Summer term when they sit their external GCSE examinations. I am sure your young person has been talking to you about the information that they have been receiving both in form time and their lessons but I would like to take the opportunity to share with you some information about supporting your young person and the logistics on the mock examination period.

Supporting your young person

We often talk to students about a holistic approach to exam preparation, not only is it important to revise learnt topics for their exams but it is important to ensure they are preparing themselves mentally and physically too.

Please encourage your young person to go to bed early and remove distractions like phones before bed. Feeling rested will enable our young people to remain focused during this time.

Food is fuel, please encourage them to eat a good, healthy and substantial breakfast on the morning of their exams. Not only will this reduce the chorus of rumbling tummys in the silent exam hall, but it will help to focus their brains on the task in hand. We encourage students to take water in to their exam but remind them to remove any labels.

As a school we are committed to ensuring that you feel that you are well equipped in supporting your young person through their GCSEs. Our website contains lots of practical support for both yourself and your young person regarding revision techniques and strategies. The booklet linked below contains details of the revision techniques your young person has been looking at in school.

<https://www.phs.cheshire.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=1051&type=pdf>
<https://www.phs.cheshire.sch.uk/keystage4exams>

A copy of the timetable is linked below for you to support them with their revision and being prepared for the exams.

<https://www.phs.cheshire.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=1252&type=pdf>

You can also tell your young person to check the **Year 11 Google Classroom** page which has revision and exam tips. On the Year 11 Google Classroom page they will also find:

- JCQ Information for candidates' guidelines – students must read this carefully and then submit the google form stating that they have understood and agree to this.
- A copy of the examination timetable.
- A copy of the mock exam expectations assembly
- List of equipment needed. There will be an exam equipment check during form time on Tuesday 28th November. They will need to bring all their equipment in a clear plastic pencil case.

I also wanted to share with you Ofqual guidance to 2024 exams. Please see the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofqual-student-guide-2024/ofqual-student-guide-2024>

Mock Examination Logistics

Lunch time

During the mock exam period if students have an afternoon exam, then lunchtime will be at 12.15pm in the restaurant. **Year 11 students will not be allowed to leave site for lunch during the mock exam period even if they do not have an exam that day.**

Rooming for exams

Exams will be in either the hall or the gym. If students have Access Arrangements they may sit their exams in the old sixth form centre or room 2. Each day there will be a seating plan outside the hall and the gym which will show the location of their desk. This is also posted on Google Classroom.

Students who have Access Arrangements will be contacted individually to confirm their entitlements and where they will be sitting their exams.

Please ensure your young person has read the JCQ 'Information for candidates' sheet carefully and remember that they will need to bring all their equipment in a clear plastic pencil case. If they wish to bring a water bottle into the exam room this should be a clear plastic bottle with the label removed. When students enter the exam room, they must not have any notes in their pockets, or have any writing on their hands as this is classed as malpractice and they may be disqualified from the exam.

Morning exams

Students do not go to their form, they must go straight to their exam room no later than 8.45am. Student should wait outside the gym at the side entrance and outside the hall at the lower school entrance.

If students travel to school on a bus which is running late don't worry. We will already have been informed of this by the bus company so please tell you young person to stay on the bus and come straight to their exam room when they arrive.

Afternoon exams

Afternoon exams start at 12:45pm. Students must go to their lessons as usual if they do not have an exam. After all exams they should also return straight to their usual lesson.

Phones, earphones and watches

Students must ensure that phones are switched off and in their bags which will be left at the front of back of the exam room. They also need to ensure that any watches and earphones/airpods are in their bags and not on their person.

If students have questions regarding their mock examinations then please tell them to see Miss Dovey or Miss Hollingworth.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely,

Miss Harriet Dovey

Director of Learning for KS4