

26th January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Mock Exams – Timetable

In just one week's time students in Year 11 will begin a 2.5 week period of mock exams. This is the final opportunity for students to understand their areas of strength and for development and will also inform teachers' curriculum plans for the final couple of months of study. I attach to this letter a copy of the mock timetable so that you can help your child plan their revision. They have also been provided with a personalised timetable showing the exams that they have specifically been entered for which will also be available on the Arbor app shortly for you to see.

Mock Exams – Malpractice

In the mock exams we expect students to be acting with the same level of integrity as they would for the actual exam series. In the actual examination series, any breach of the rules would result in a disqualification (from the exam body) being imposed on the candidate. For the mock series we will omit any assessment where a student has breached the rules, and in some cases will need to report it to the exam board. Students will be removed from the exam hall without warning and, if necessary, will be asked to resit.

Malpractice includes:

- Having banned items on them during the exam. E.g. A mobile phone or revision notes
- Talking during the exam.
- Turning around to face another candidate.
- Leaving the exam hall before being dismissed.

Mind the Gap Revision

Our after-school sessions continue after school. A reminder that these sessions are open to all students.

Week A	Monday	<i>Maths KS3 & English Y11, Media, Drama</i>
	Tuesday	<i>History, Geography, MfL, Art, Dance, RE</i>
	Wednesday	<i>Dance</i>
	Thursday	<i>English KS3 & Science Y11</i>
	Friday	
Week B	Monday	
	Tuesday	<i>Science KS3 & Maths Y11</i>
	Wednesday	
	Thursday	<i>Drama, Music, PE, Food, DT, iMedia</i>
	Friday	

Independent Revision

For the majority of students, revision is beginning to ramp up ahead of the exams in May/June. We would suggest that revision by this point is up to 1-2 hours per evening. Students have had lots of support this term

with how to revise effectively and what works for them. They have access to Sparx Maths, English and Science as well as GCSE Pod and revision materials accessible via Microsoft Teams. We appreciate your support in creating an environment at home for students to focus in, preferably without distraction from their mobile phone.

Please note that outside of these sessions, other subjects who do not have mock exams may require your child and they will be communicating this separately.

Actual Exams

There has been a lot of questions about the dates of the actual exams. You can find these on our school website. The important date is 24th June. This is the date of the contingency day when all candidates need to be available. Please do not plan any holiday or trips until 26th.

Progress Evening

Progress Evening will take place on 25th March. This will be the final opportunity to talk about your child's progress and what they need to do to ensure they achieve the best they can in May/June. This really is a crucial date and one that we sincerely urge you to attend; a united front with parent, teacher and student is very powerful, particularly with their exams so close.

Please save this date and we will be back in touch a couple of weeks before about how to book appointments.

Yours faithfully,



Chris Andrews
Vice Principal: Outcomes and Operations

Maths

The second round of mocks will follow the same format as before and will give students another valuable opportunity to practise the exams in realistic conditions. All students have been preparing through their weekly homework tasks, where they have been given past practice papers to help them become familiar with different question structures.

As a department, we are providing every student with a revision pack to take home to support their preparation. To help your child, please ensure they are working through this pack and using their QLA from the first mock exams to focus on areas that need improvement. Inside the revision pack, you will also find a helpful website sheet with links to our recommended revision sites.

Where possible, please ensure your child has a scientific calculator for Maths papers 2 and 3.

English

All students have completed their First Important Priority Sheet with their teacher so they know exactly what to focus their revision on in preparation for the next mocks. Most of our students need to make marginal gains to push their marks up to the next grade boundary. Students should use a combination of revision guides (CGP or SNAP), online resources (BBC Bitesize, GCSEPod, Mr Bruff, Mr Everything English and Sparknotes), flash cards and past papers (given them to their teachers) to practice these specific questions to revise their FIPs.

Science

There will be 3 science exams, one biology, one chemistry, and one physics, and all of them will be a paper 2s. This means that the following topics will be assessed:

Biology – *Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; Ecology.*

Chemistry – *The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere; Using resources.*

Physics – *Forces; Waves; Magnetism and electromagnetism; Space physics (triple only)*

Students have had a lot of revision support already including the revision booklet and revision lessons in school. If they need any further revision resources, such as past papers, they can be collected from Mr Scott's room (room 121).