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**Headteacher:** Mr Paul Haigh  
**Chair of Governors:** Mrs Karen Milbourn

Date: 12 February 2021

Our ref: PHA/fh

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

**Re: Y11 Update and Mock Exams**

I hope you are all well.

I continue to be impressed by the effort and approach of Y11 students towards their studies this term. The disruption caused by the pandemic and the weather continues to be a significant issue for all and hopefully we will have an update after the half-term break from the government about the date of our return to school. Currently, we know that students will be returning no earlier than Monday 8th March 2021.

I am writing to update you all about our plans for your mock exams. As you know, these were postponed when the latest lockdown was announced. We still intend to run these exams for reasons that I explain below. Here is the new plan:

- Mock exams will now be held on the weeks beginning 22nd March and 29th March 2021.
- If the government decides not to bring Y11 students back on 8th March 2021, we will communicate to you about whether the mocks will be held remotely, or whether we will delay them further to ensure face-to-face delivery.
- We have chosen these dates so you hopefully have two weeks with your teachers to prepare for the mocks as well, before you sit them.
- Students are not expected to revise for these over the half-term break. We expect revision to be taking place from Monday 22nd February.
- A new exam timetable will be sent to all students after the half-term break, along with arrangements for study leave and exam locations.
- We will be sending out a letter early next week with information about collecting work from school, which has been collated by teachers and may help with your learning and revision.



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**Please see the exams as an opportunity to show your teachers what you know and what you can do.**

We understand that times are difficult. Students should be reassured that:

- the exams are just **one piece of evidence** your teachers will be using to assess you, if the government asks teachers to generate Centre Assessed Grades in the same way as 2020;
- teachers will not be suddenly lowering predicted grades if a student has done consistently well all year but makes a mistake in the mocks – they will **take everything into account** in the end, assuming that is what the government wants;
- doing exams in this way is **an important experience** for the next phase of education – you need to know what it feels like to do exams in this way before you begin your post-16 courses;
- **revision really helps** and you should do what you can manage – but don't overload yourself; everyone's workload and home circumstances are different and you mustn't get stressed if others are managing their workload differently;
- we intend to still provide students with **study leave** so they can have the time and space to revise properly and remain calm during the exam period.

Finally, can I remind all families that Parents' Evening for Y11 is on Thursday 4 March 4 2021 between 4pm-7.30pm. Details will be sent out after the holiday.

Have a lovely break over half-term and we look forward to seeing you all back here soon.

Yours faithfully



Mr P Haigh  
Headteacher

