

NSH/CCH

10 December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

**YEAR 11 JANUARY MOCK EXAMINATIONS**  
**MONDAY 10 JANUARY TO FRIDAY 21 JANUARY** (Please note that these have been put back by one week)

You will be aware that our Year 11 mocks are taking place after the Christmas break. You will find within this letter information about how you can support your child to be as fully prepared as possible for these examinations.

In order to support and prepare our Year 11 students for the January mock examinations all of our Year 11 teachers have been planning and delivering a programme of ongoing teaching, advice and support in the lead up to the mock examinations. Your child was given a full set of revision guides in Year 10 and your child's teachers will continue to provide access to extra revision materials to support with final mock revision.

We will withhold our mock results and hold a mock examination results' session in early February after all of the results have been collated. Your child will receive a mock exam results grade card. They will not be given results before this to make the day as realistic an experience as possible.

We are planning for all eventualities regarding COVID related isolation throughout the duration of the mocks. We have various 'back up' plans for any students who may not be able to be in school for the mocks. Please do not worry about this and be rest assured that we will do all we can to make this a meaningful process for all of our students and that our students do not miss out in the completion of these mocks.

**ORGANISATION AND SUPPORT**

You will find at the end of this letter the overview mock examination timetable. We will give all of our students a personal copy of their examination timetable before the Christmas break.

Continued overleaf

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We are also giving all of our students a '*Year 11 Revision topics, how to revise and how this will be checked*' summary document and a '*How to study and revise*' guide. The revision topics list will be for all of the examinations due to take place within the mocks. It will include specific revision topics, what the students actually need to do for their revision and details of how your child's teachers will check that the revision has actually been completed.

In our Personal Development lessons, we are asking all of our Year 11 students to plan their Year 11 revision timetable.

With regards to revision planning and revision timetable, we would recommend the following to our Year 11 students:

- Plan a final revision timetable that is designed to be spread across the six weeks from the last week of term, and continues up to the date of the last exam. This will hopefully prevent the volume of revision required feeling 'overwhelming'.
- Spend at least four or five hours of revision on each subject over the course of this six-week period.
- Plan the time that you do revise, use this time productively and stick to your revision plan. Your revision plan must also include days when you are not revising at all, particularly over the actual Christmas period.
- It is important that you take time away from your revision completely for family time, fun, festivities, rest and relaxation. This is vital for your health and wellbeing.
- The information from the Year 11 parent/carer mock examination support evening which took place on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December is now posted on our website. This provides detailed effective revision strategies.
- We will also post our '*Year 11 Revision topics, how to revise and how this will be checked*' summary document on our school website.

You will be aware there will be a continued planned programme of support for our Year 11 students after the mock exams as we progress throughout the spring term and on to the final GCSE examinations in summer 2021. We will write to you again with further details of this. We will continue to strive to do all that we can to support all of our students achieve their very best.

**Continued**

## UPDATE EXAMS 2022

This information is taken from Mr Campbell's letter to parent/carers on our website published on 29 November.

*The government is clear that students entering GCSEs, AS or A levels in 2022 should expect to take exams in the summer. In recognition of the fact that students' education has been disrupted by the pandemic, they will be given extra help to pre-Covid years. These include:*

- *students taking GCSEs in English literature, History, Ancient History and Geography will not need to cover the usual range of content in the exams*
- *students taking GCSEs in all other subjects will be given advance information about the focus of the content of the exams to help them focus their revision*
- *students taking AS and A levels will be given advance information about the focus of the content of the exams to help them focus their revision*
- *students taking GCSEs in Mathematics will be given in their exams copies of formulae they would in other years have to memorise*
- *students taking GCSE Physics and Combined Science will be given, in their exams, a sheet covering all the equations they might need to apply in the exams*

*The advance information for GCSE, AS and A levels will be published no later than 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022. The government retains the flexibility for advance information to be deployed at other points ahead of 7<sup>th</sup> February if circumstances require. The government will take account of the level of disruption to students' education being caused by the pandemic if and when it decides that advance information should be published earlier, and will give at least a week's notice of publication.*

*Whilst the government is firmly committed to exams going ahead in summer 2022, they have contingency plans in place for the unlikely event that exams have to be cancelled again because of the pandemic. If exams have to be cancelled in summer 2022, students' grades will instead be determined by their teachers, using a Teacher Assessed Grade (TAG) approach similar to that used in summer 2021. TAGs are based on teachers' assessment of their students' work.*

*The school is working through the detail in the Contingency Framework if we were to revert to a TAG process. Whilst we have been through this for the last two years, it is more complicated this year as essentially we need to modify our delivery and assessments so they are both suitable for external exam preparation, but also meet the criteria of TAG evidence should it be required.*

*Teachers will inform students if an assessment is likely to count towards a TAG and it will be likely that all mock exams in January 2022 will be used as such. Our advice to students in Year 11 and Year 13 remains unchanged - prepare thoroughly and do your very best on all assessments. All parents and students should read the letter from Dr Jo Saxton (Chief Regulator of Ofqual) in the link below:*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/open-letters-arrangements-for-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2022/letter-to-students>

continued

In addition to overleaf, please see further information below specifically for parents/carers and students regarding contingency planning – again a version of this is published on our website.

### **New Contingency Guidance: Key Points for Students and Parents**

The government still insists that it is “**firmly committed to exams going ahead in summer 2022**”.

However, “Guidance for centres on contingency arrangements” in “the **unlikely** event that exams have to be cancelled again because of the pandemic” was published on gov.uk last week. This requires schools to have a contingency framework.

**To date** the major points for students to consideration are:

- During the course of the year students will be assessed, and these assessments **may** be used in a Teacher Assessed Grade, if a TAG is **needed**. It is therefore important that these assessment are taken seriously, especially the mocks!
- During the assessments students will work **independently** and without assistance (other than as required for a reasonable adjustment).
- Students should be told which parts of the subject content will be covered by the assessment, but will not be told the questions in advance or be able to predict the questions from information given to them, students will not have access to books or revision notes, assessment will be timed and supervised.
- The assessments will be as useful as possible for students preparing to take summer exams. Assessments should, therefore, be similar to full or parts of the exam papers they are preparing to take next summer.
- In Maths, combined Science and Physics students should have access to the formulae and equation sheets they will have in the summer exams.
- Teachers may tell the student the grade at which their performance in the assessment indicates they have performed. Remember though that the marking and grading has not been quality assured, so this means that this may not be the grade the student achieves for the overall course.
- Students who are entitled to it must have EAA.
- Students should tell staff before / immediately after evidence is collected if they require special consideration, this need only be applied if we go to TAGs.

As we have said before, whilst we stress the importance of your child taking any assessments seriously, preparing for them as best as they can and striving to achieve their best, we equally stress the importance of health and wellbeing. We are fully committed to supporting all of our students in ensuring that we support and prepare them as best we can as they continue with their studies throughout Year 11.

If you have any further queries about the forthcoming mock examinations and support for your child or any other information in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact one of us, your child’s subject teacher, or our Examination Team - Karen Dews (Examinations’ Officer) or Sharon Bennett (Examinations’ Assistant).

Yours faithfully



Mr N Holmes  
Director of Student  
Progress



Mr D Merrifield  
Director of Key  
Stage 4



Mrs C Mason  
Head of Year



Mrs H Hooker  
Associate Head of  
Year

## ORGANISATION AND SUPPORT

### Overview of examinations

Day	Morning	Afternoon
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> January	Media Studies	*Business Studies Paper 1 *Psychology
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> January	English Literature Paper 1	Maths Paper 1
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> January	Health & Social Care **Computing Paper 1	Biology Trilogy Biology
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> January	Maths Paper 2	Physics Trilogy Physics
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> January	Geography Paper 1	History Paper 1
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> January		
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> January		
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> January	PE Paper 1 Food & Nutrition Paper 1 BTEC Enterprise	Spanish Writing Mandarin Writing
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> January	Drama Design Technology **Computing Paper 2	History Paper 2
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> January	Music PE Paper 2	French Writing
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	Maths Paper 3	Chemistry Trilogy Chemistry
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> January	Fine Art (All day) 3D Art (All day) ***Business Studies Paper 2	
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January		
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January		
Week beginning Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	MFL speaking takes place all week. Individual appointments will be made by the class teacher.	

\*A small number of students study both Business & Psychology. These students will sit the papers consecutively.

\*\*Starts at 11:00am.

\*\*\*For the small number of students who study both Business and Art they will sit the Business paper first and complete the Art exam during P7.

PM examinations may also overrun into P7 depending upon the duration of the mock examination.