



Kingsmead School



A PARTNER ACADEMY IN JOHN TAYLOR MAT

Head of School: Mrs M Mincher, Bsc, NPQH

RESILIENT INNOVATIVE MINDFUL EMPLOYABLE

13th November 2023

Year 11 – November Mock Examinations

Dear Parent/Carer,

This letter is to inform you of the arrangements for the upcoming mock examination season, which will commence from Monday, 27th November and will run until Friday, 1st December.

Exam Arrangements

Students will sit two exams on most days. The first exam will start at 8.30am and the second will usually start from 11.00am. On Monday 27th November the second exam will start from 11:30 due to the change in timings of Tutor time on a Monday. Our rationale for this is that research points to students performing best in examinations held during mornings.

As soon as they arrive at school each morning, students should go straight to the exam venue specified on their individual timetable. Once students have finished their morning exams, they will return to their timetabled lessons in the main school building, to continue their revision in period 2 and 4 classes. Students will still be able to access the Glasshouse during break and lunch. At 11am (11:30 on a Monday), students will be directed to the venue of their second exam.

The second exam session will run until 1.00 pm each day (1:30pm on a Monday), although the length of different option subject exams will vary. **If their second exam finishes before the end of period 4, students will be dismissed from the venue to their timetabled lesson to continue with their revision for the next day's exams. Otherwise, students will go straight to lunch. Teacher led revision sessions will also take place in the usual timetabled period 5 and 6 lessons.**

The mock exam timetable is included below.

Monday 27 th November		Tues 28 th November		Wednesday 29 th November		Thursday 30 th November		Friday 1 st December	
Exam 1	Exam 2	Exam 1	Exam 2	Exam 1	Exam 2	Exam 1	Exam 2	Exam 1	Exam 2
English Lit'	Option Block C	English Lang'	Science Biology	Option Block D	Maths	Option Block B	Science Chem	Science Physics	Option Block A

Individual exam timetables will be issued to students later this week. If students want to check when their option exams are, they can do this by referring to their timetable and identifying which letter (A, B, C or D) is in the subject's class code. The exam for that subject will take place in the corresponding block session.

Not all subjects have a scheduled mock exam. Some BTEC subjects will instead have a 'drop-down' session, where they will receive intensive support from subject specialists. The details of these arrangements will be included in the students' individual timetables.

Expectations of Students

Even though students will be sitting their exams during the week, Kingsmead School's expectations remain the same:

- **Students must wear their full school uniform at all times during the mock exam season** (Monday, 27th November to Friday, 1st December),
- **Students should still arrive at school for no later than 8:30am** – *this is so they can arrive at their exam venue in good time and can make an orderly start,*
- **Students should go to the toilet before each exam and they should allow time in their journeys and preparation to do this,**
- **Students must bring all of the equipment they will need to each exam** – *you can find more information in the school's Student Guide to Exams, which is available [here](#),*
- **Students should also familiarise themselves with the JCQ Information for Candidates documents** – *which are available [here](#),*
- After they have been dismissed from school, **students will be expected to leave the school site and revise independently at home.**
- **Y11 students will return to normal lessons from Monday 4th December.**

As with the Summer tests, **students will sit the December mocks under formal examination conditions, in the school's Sports Hall and our other designated examination venues.** The exam desks will be well spaced; the distance between the edge of each desk to any other will be 1.25 metres, so the actual difference between each student will be approximately 2 metres.

Conducting the examinations in the school's designated venues and under examination conditions is an important part of our strategy for preparing the students for their exams in the summer. We have taken this decision because we want the students to have the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the organisation of the exams in school and the regulations governing their conduct, which they will need to follow in the summer.

How Can you Help?

The Importance of Independent Revision

It is important that your child continues to revise independently at home throughout their remaining time in Year 11. As parents, you have an important role to play in encouraging and supporting them as they do this.

Your child can revise in many ways. Firstly, they will continue to have access to all the resources in school e.g. flash cards and past papers. They should already be revising independently using the texts books that they were provided with. To support them with this, their teachers will also set appropriate revision activities for them to complete at home, via Satchell One, Seneca and the Blended Learning Platform.

Below is a list of the GCSE subjects being taken in Year 11 and the corresponding exam boards used by Kingsmead. I have included this information for you and your child to access more past papers/ mark schemes and revision materials online should you wish to do so.

The Impact of Attendance on Outcomes

In 2023, students with 96% attendance or better achieved an average GCSE grade of a 6! One whole grade higher than students with average attendance of 95% or below. The students with expected attendance

also achieved one whole grade above the national average, in every one of their subjects – making half a grade more in progress than the other Kingsmead students with below expected attendance.

Students with expected attendance are also twice as likely to achieve grades 4 or 5 in both English and Maths, than students with below expected attendance.

Summer Exams

As in previous years, JCQ and the exam boards have added a 'contingency day' date to the exam calendar in case of major national or local disruption to exams. Exams may be moved to this date if required.

The date that has been designated is Wednesday, 26th June 2024 which will be after the end of the scheduled GCSE exams.

Please be aware that if the contingency date is used, your child may have an exam/s moved to this day and therefore care should be taken before making arrangements, such as booking holidays, on this date.

For questions about the mock exam arrangements, please contact Miss. N Harding



Miss N Harding
Examination Officer



Mrs J Mist
Assistant Head

(examqueries@kingsmeadschool.net). If you have any subject specific questions, please contact the class teacher. For general queries, please contact Mrs. G Taylor.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs G Taylor
Year 11 Progress Leader