



Kingsmead School



A PARTNER ACADEMY IN JOHN TAYLOR MAT
Headteacher: Mrs M Mincher, Bsc, NPQH

RESILIENT



INNOVATIVE



MINDFUL



EMPLOYABLE



31st January 2024

Year 11 – March Mock Examinations

Dear Parent/Carer,

This letter is to inform you of the arrangements for the upcoming March mock exam season, which will commence from Monday, 4th March and run until Friday, 8th March.

As with their December mocks, **students will sit these exams under formal examination conditions, in the school's Sports Hall and our other designated examination venues.**

This will prepare 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 needed.

Exam Arrangements

Students will sit two exams on most days. The first exam will start at 8.30am and the second will start from 2pm on Monday and 1.30pm on Tuesday – Friday.

We have taken the decision to start the second exam later in the day, following feedback from the students, where they asked for more revision time between the first and second exams.

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 exam, they will return to their timetabled lessons in the main school building, to continue their revision in period 3 and 4 classes. Students will still be able to access the House of Pi and Glasshouse during the breaks between the exam sessions.

At 1.15pm, during their second break, students will be directed to the venue of their second exam.

The second exam session will run until 3.30pm each day, so Period 6 will not take place Monday to Friday. At the end of their afternoon exam, students will be dismissed from the venue and told to go straight home to continue with their revision for the next day's exams, independently. This may mean that on some days students leave school earlier than usual, and other days later – please check your exam timetable carefully.

To support student with this, teachers will set appropriate revision activities for them to complete at home, via Satchel One and the other platforms which we use.

Individual exam timetables will be issued to students later this term. You can also find these details in the "Exam Timetables" section of the MCAS app.

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

Monday 4 th March		Tues 5 th March		Wednesday 6 th March		Thursday 7 th March		Friday 8 th March	
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	Option Block D	Science Biology	English Language	Maths	Science Chem	Option Block B	Science Physics	Option Block A

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, 4th to Friday, 8th March),
- **Students should still arrive at school for no later than 8:20am** – *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 on the school website ([here](#)),*
- After they have been dismissed from their afternoon exam, **students will be expected to leave the school site and revise independently at home.**
- **Year 11 students will return to normal lessons from Monday, 11th March.**

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. They can also use the Blended Learning Platform and online revision resources, such as SENECA.

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:

English (AQA)	Geography (AQA)	Business (Pearson)
English Literature (AQA)	History (Pearson/Edexcel)	Design Technology (AQA)
Mathematics (Pearson/Edexcel)	Science (Trilogy & Single AQA)	GCSE PE (OCR)
Computer Science (OCR)	Spanish (Pearson/Edexcel)	Sport (Pearson/BTEC)
French (Pearson/Edexcel)	Art (OCR)	Music (OCR)
		Religious Studies (AQA)

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

The full schedule of exams being sat by Kingsmead students will be found on the school website, [here](#).

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. Harding (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



Miss N Harding
Examination Officer



Mrs J Mist
Assistant Head