



St Mary's Catholic School

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where everyone can succeed



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Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Year 11 Mock Examinations (15th November - 25th November 2021)

We have been very pleased with the attitude and workrate of Year 11 students since the start of the new term in September, especially after the disruption of the previous academic year. Students are demonstrating an excellent approach to their studies and have been working exceptionally well in all subject areas. We are confident that all their hard work will pay dividends next summer.

I am writing to inform you that Year 11 mock examinations will be taking place during the next half-term, starting on **Monday 15th November** and finishing on **Thursday 25th November**. Please find attached the timetable, which students received on Friday morning last week. Before issuing the timetable, we emphasised to students that the upcoming mocks are an opportunity for them to prepare for and experience a busy exam schedule without the pressure of it being the real thing. The experience of doing exams in the morning and in the afternoon over a short period of time will stand students in very good stead for next summer. The mocks are also an opportunity for everyone to take stock at this point in GCSE courses, identifying which areas of learning are strong and which areas of learning require further attention going forward. This will give students, parents and teachers a clear picture and help considerably with planning for the spring term.

Students have also been issued with an Information Advice and Guidance booklet, which will help and support them in their preparation for mocks. The booklet provides detailed information in each subject area, including a breakdown of each exam, what each exam will cover, where to find useful resources and how best to revise. Copies of the booklet are available on the school website and on the Year 11 Teams tile. It is worth noting that there will be no mock exams in some vocational subjects or in GCSE art. This is due to the specific nature of these courses and how they will be assessed by exam boards this academic year.

When talking to students on Friday morning, we were very keen to stress that the mocks are not an end in themselves, but a staging post on the journey to next summer. Whilst students should approach the mocks seriously and prepare well, they should not be overly anxious about them. We want the whole experience to be a positive one, enabling students to look forward to the real GSCEs with confidence. We also mentioned that there is lots of support available here in school. Form tutors, subject teachers, as well as Mr Tait, the Key Stage 4 Leader, and Mr Donnelly, the Head of Year 11, will always be on hand to offer advice and reassurance to anyone who is feeling worried in any way.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Donnelly in the first instance.

Thank you very much for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Dr I Stanton
Assistant Headteacher

