



# St Mary's Catholic School

Benton Park Road, Newcastle upon Tyne. NE7 7PE

*where everyone can succeed*



Tel: 0191 2153260 Fax: 0191 2153279

admin@st-marys.newcastle.sch.uk

www.stmarysnewcastle.co.uk

14<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Dear Parent or Carer,

## **Re: Year 13 Mock Examinations Information Booklet and Timetable**

I hope that this letter finds you and your family well. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your help and support so far this academic year. We are incredibly grateful for the ongoing support that you have all offered since your child has been in the Sixth Form.

During this upcoming half term, Year 13 students will sit mock examinations. The mock examination period begins on Wednesday November 30<sup>th</sup> and runs until Friday December 9<sup>th</sup>.

Students have been their timetable, and an information and revision support booklet for this examination period. The booklet provides students with detailed information on the exams that are taking place in each subject area, including exam title, length, and format. The booklet also indicates what resources students should use, as well as advice regarding the topics covered on the examinations and how best to prepare for these exams. Please find attached a copy of the information booklet and the timetable, which can also be found on the school website.

These mocks are another important staging post for students on their journey towards external examinations next summer. The preparation period offers an excellent opportunity for students to reinforce and revisit those areas of knowledge where they may feel less secure, laying a solid foundation for further revision in the spring term. The mock examinations also allow students to experience a busy examination schedule in a formal setting without the pressure of it being the real thing. We will be mirroring as much as possible the protocols of A-Levels examinations, so that students get into good routines and understand clearly what the expectations are for formal examinations.

Whilst students should approach the mock examinations seriously and prepare well, they should not be overly anxious about them. We want students to take ownership over these mock examinations and see them as part of the preparation process for next summer. There is always lots of excellent pastoral support available here in school. Form tutors, subject teachers, as well as myself, and Miss Lamb, the Head of Year 13, will always be on hand to offer advice and reassurance to anyone who is feeling worried in any way.

Throughout the mock examination period students will be granted study leave. As such the majority of students will only have to attend their examinations in the period between Wednesday November 30<sup>th</sup> and Friday December 9<sup>th</sup>. All students will be expected to be in school and attending all lessons from Monday December 12<sup>th</sup> onwards.

During this study leave period, all lessons of A-Level courses will not take place and students who take those courses will only be expected to be in school for their examinations. Vocational course lessons (and courses where students are not formally assessed in this mock examination period) will still run and students who study these courses are expected to be in school for these lessons. Students attending these lessons should be present for the entire session (e.g. if students have a lesson Period 2 they should be in from 8.40am - 12.15pm). When the session finishes students may leave the school site. For students who study a mixture of vocational and A-Level courses, they will be expected to attend vocational course lessons unless it is a session before an examination (e.g. the morning before an afternoon exam or the afternoon before a morning exam) or the examination itself.

The Sixth Form Area is open to Year 13 students from 8am - 5.30pm every day during the study leave if they wish to revise/prepare for examinations in school.

Students should also be following the Sixth Form Dress Code any time they are in school during this period (e.g for lesson, examinations and revision sessions). Students must also ensure they use their Sixth Form ID badges to swipe in and out when they arrive/leave the school site.

If you have any queries regarding the upcoming Year 13 mock examination period, please do not hesitate to get in touch with myself.

Many thanks as always for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,



**Mr J Turnbull**  
**Assistant Headteacher - Sixth Form**