



## Duke's Secondary School

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Principal: Mr R Atkinson

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Dear Parent/Carer

The Year 11 Mock Examination Period will take place from the 22<sup>nd</sup> January to 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024. During this period, students will sit exams in the vast majority of their subjects in order to reflect the demands of the final summer GCSE examination period.

Although mock examinations do not count towards the overall grade of a GCSE, they are very important preparation for the summer examination period and students should take them seriously. Mock exams support students in three main areas:

- Improve subject knowledge and understanding
- Help develop examination skills
- Support resilience and students' ability to deal with intense examination periods

The more preparation that students put into these mock exams, the more beneficial they will be as preparation for the actual GCSE exams in the summer. Statistically, students who do well in the mocks go on to perform better in the summer.

In addition, the Joint Council for Qualifications, the body that governs public examinations in England, has asked schools to keep papers from mock examinations so that they can form the basis of teacher assessed grades, should there be a need for examinations to be cancelled again in the summer of 2024. This may appear an unlikely scenario but if this was the case and summer examinations were cancelled, then the students' mock grades would govern the overall final grade that they were awarded.

The mock examination series is also an opportunity for us to finally assess whether or not students require access arrangements to support them come the summer. Access arrangements can be made for a range of needs and many students have already been earmarked for support. However, if it is clear from the mock exams that individual students are either not requiring or accessing this support, then we will review the provision and may remove the support for the summer if we deem that it is unnecessary.

The link for accessing the full mock exam timetable on our website is below. Please support your child to prepare as carefully as possible. Teaching staff will be placing a range of revision resources on Google Classroom or through other learning platforms to help them prepare. Our website contains a number of revision guides to support students in their preparation. There are also a number of tips on how parents can support their children in the revision process, see link below.

[Student Exam Timetables | NCEA Duke's Secondary School](#)

[Revision Tips and Ideas | Duke's School \(ncea.org.uk\)](#)

May I take this opportunity to wish your child well over the mock examination period.

Yours sincerely

Ben Line  
Deputy Principal



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