



Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Year 11 Mock Exams**

As you are aware your child's mock exams are due to take place next week. I write to you to explain both the importance of these examinations and our expectations during the exam period.

I cannot emphasise enough how **significant** these examinations are to our learners. Despite the current government standpoint that examinations will continue next year, there is still widespread speculation on how your child's courses will be judged in Summer 2021. Given the level of uncertainty, it could be that internal examinations and class work prove to play a significant deciding factor in final grades.

To put simply, these examinations and your child's efforts in class always have a huge bearing on their future – but this could now be even greater. This means all learners must treat them seriously and prepare properly.

Along with the important outcomes highlighted above, these exams will give your child's teachers vital information on the strengths, weaknesses and any misconceptions your child may have. They may well provide the basis for college applications and references, as they will give teachers a strong impression of your child's current working grade and likely attainment by the end of the course. The mock examinations are an opportunity for your child to demonstrate the skills he/she has in each of their subjects, as well as a chance to get used to 'exam conditions.' They are your son/daughters' chance to shine.

Having high expectations of all learner's conduct is always important at Beacon Hill Academy but during examinations we need to ensure it is immaculate. When your son/daughter enters the examination hall they are to be in silent and remain silent until they leave the exam hall at the end of each exam. Learners must always face the front and cannot make any communication – spoken, written or through gestures with other learners.

To help them prepare for the examinations I have identified some key messages below. Some they will already be aware of, but I thought it important so that you are able to support your son and daughter during this period.



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Principal: Sukhjot Dhami



### Revision

There are many effective ways in which learners can revise key topics. The academy provides access to a multitude of online learning platforms: Century Tech, Hegarty and GCSE Pod. There is also GCSE Bitesize and Seneca learning available for all learners to use. We have spoken many times about how learners can revise by creating notes to summarise their learning; repeatedly testing themselves on their knowledge; the use of flashcards or posters and answering past paper questions to implement their knowledge. Repeatedly utilising these methods to revisit key topics enables them to recall and retrieve key information, embedding it into your long-term memory – offering the best chance of deep learning. This is the route to secure good outcomes. Teachers will have offered your child support on how to do this, what to tackle and will have encouraged them to succeed. It is important that your child has a work and revision plan and that this is well organised, with sufficient breaks and making sure they are eating and sleeping well.

### Opportunities for in school support

As well as continuing with lessons and the support offered by your class teacher, a number of breakfast clubs are in operation next week in English and Maths. Learners can see their teachers about where and when to attend. Period 6 has been cancelled throughout the duration of the mocks to enable all learners to personalise their revision – targeting the topics most pressing to them. Form tutor, Learning Manager Mr Quiney and the rest of the teaching staff will also be on hand to offer all learners any pastoral support they may require. Please encourage them to speak out and come and see us.

### Practicalities

During the mock examinations, all learners should be punctual to school and continue to arrive at the usual time. When they do not have exams, they will be expected to attend their regular lessons. It is imperative that all learners in Year 11 have a high level of attendance (96%+) and attend all of their examinations. Learners need to check their examination timetable every evening to ensure that they have the appropriate equipment ready for the next day. This may include a scientific calculator for Paper 2 and 3 in Maths, as well as for your Science based papers. You will also need a clear pencil case with black biro pens, pencils, rubber, ruler, pencil sharpener and mathematical equipment – a compass, protractor and set squares for specific exams. Some afternoon examinations may run over, meaning that the end of school for learners undertaking these exams will be later than usual. Please see your child's exam timetable to see what time they are expected to finish each day.

All learners should follow the stringent policy with regards to mobile phones, smart watches and other electronic devices. Any device/phone or smart watch on their person must be handed in. The device should be switched off. As per all external examinations, any circumstances which see a learner breaking the rules surrounding such devices will be treated extremely seriously.



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Like I stressed earlier in this letter, this is your son/daughter's time to shine. If there is anything that your child needs support with, please come and speak to us. Both my staff and I wish you all the best of luck for their mock examinations!

We hope that learners work hard, have high aspirations and remember the importance of these examinations to their future.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr S. Dhami**  
**Principal**



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