

16th October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

October half term will soon be here, and I wanted to inform you that Year 11 mock examinations will begin after half term. They start Monday 13th November and run until Friday 24th November, lasting 2 weeks. It is extremely important that our students come to school each day prepared and we will be communicating with them through assemblies and form time what this entails.

Students will receive a timetable for their mock exams prior to October half term alongside a student's exam guide booklet. This outlines expectations and rules students need to be aware of prior to sitting external and mock examinations.

Morning exams begin at 9am but students will begin entering the exam hall much earlier, so it is imperative students are in school for a **prompt 8.30am** start. Key instructions will be given each day to enable a calm and smooth start to all exams for all students in form time and on lines.

Mobile phones, any smart devices, watches or headphones must be handed in before each exam **to an invigilator** as they are not allowed into exams. The system for this will also be shared in more detail later this week with students.

Mock examinations are the perfect opportunity for students to showcase what they know and how well they can perform in exams. Exam papers will be graded and shared with you through our reports. This will give you and your child a clear picture of what they have attained in the examinations and will help them with all their post 16 applications. The information from their papers will also help our teachers plan next steps over the rest of the year to improve their outcomes in their real exams next summer.

It is important our students are **revising** little but often and **doing this now**. Reading through their class books, making notes from memory and checking they have recorded them correctly or using programmes like GCSE pod are all great ways to start revision.

We have around 700 pods being watched each week by Year 11 which is fantastic! All students can access this for free. A guide for parents/carers can be found here: [Parent Resources - GCSEPod](#)

Any questions about GCSE pod do contact Mrs Hayward:
l.hayward@smithswood.fmat.co.uk

For support creating a revision timetable BBC bitesize has a good resource:
[How do I make a revision timetable for my exams? - BBC Bitesize](#)

If you have any questions about the upcoming exams, please contact Mrs Douglas (AL for Year 11) e.douglas@smithswood.fmat.co.uk or Mr Collins (AAL) m.collins@smithswood.fmat.co.uk

We wish all of our Year 11 students well for the upcoming mock examinations.

Sincerely,



Mrs Downing
Vice Principal