

25th October 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we move towards October half term, I wanted to inform you that Year 11 mock exams will begin on Monday 11th November and run for two weeks. It is crucial that students arrive at school each day on time and prepared for each exam. Students have received their personalised mock exams timetable*. You can see your child's exam timetable on MCAS in the report section.

Morning exams begin at 9am but students will begin entering the exam hall much earlier, so it is important students arrive at school for a prompt 8.30am start.

Mobile phones, watches and headphones must be handed in before each exam to an invigilator as they are not allowed into exams. Students experienced this process during their Year 10 summer exams.

Mock exams are an opportunity for students to apply their knowledge, demonstrating what they have learned, whilst also gaining more experience of sitting longer exams in preparation for their final GCSE exams next summer.

Exam papers will be marked, and the grades shared with the students. We hope you will be able to join us for our Year 11 Parents evening which will take place on Thursday 12th December to discuss your child's results and next steps.

We hope that students demonstrate our school value of ambition by giving their best during this mock exam fortnight. Their performance in these exams is important as they will provide a guide as to what courses will be appropriate for them as they begin to apply for their post 16 courses. Therefore, it is crucial that students are revising the content they have been taught in lessons. We would encourage students to revise in short chunks of time, but to do so frequently. All students have been given advice on how to revise effectively for each subject. Students have access to a range of online platforms to support their learning. For example, [Sparx Maths](#) and [GCSE Pod](#). You can find out further information about these online platforms by visiting the [student life](#) section of our school website.

I would like to remind you that if a student does not have a subject intervention session after school, they are welcome to attend our homework club. This club is open 3pm – 4pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and 3pm – 3.30pm on Friday. This club takes place in W2, where your child will be supported by staff in completing their homework and/or revision.

If you have any questions about the upcoming exams, please contact Mr Rose (Achievement Leader for Year 11) w.rose@smithswood.fmat.co.uk or Miss Craddock (Assistant Achievement Leader for Year 11) j.craddock@smithswood.fmat.co.uk

We wish all our Year 11 students well for the upcoming mock exams and look forward to seeing you and your child on Thursday 12th December.

**Students will not be sitting an exam in BTEC Sport or Health & Social as initially published on their timetable. The Art and Design Technology exams are 5 hours long and take place on Monday 25th and Tuesday 26th November.*

Yours sincerely,



Mr Friswell
Vice Principal