

February 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 11 mock exams will begin on **Monday 9th February** and run for two weeks. It is crucial that students arrive at school each day on time and are prepared for each exam. Students have received their personalised mock exams timetable. This is also available for you to view via MCAS.

Morning exams begin at 9am but students will begin entering the exam hall earlier than this. **It is important students arrive at school for a prompt 8.30am start.**

The vast majority of students will complete their exams in the sports hall. A small number of students with access arrangements will complete their exams in a smaller room. **Only students who have been tested and approved for these access arrangements and/or have medical notes will complete their exams in the smaller room.** These rules apply to all schools across the country and are JCQ (the organisation responsible for exams) regulations. We cannot be in a position where a student is refusing to complete an exam in their allocated room.

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 11 November mock 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 grades shared with the students. You will receive your child's final school report on Monday 23rd March.

We hope you will be able to join us for our **Year 11 Parents' evening which will take place on Thursday 26th March** 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 it will provide a guide as to what courses will be appropriate for them as they continue to apply and interview 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 of 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 3–4pm Tuesday-Thursday and 3–3.30pm on Friday**. This club takes place in G13, where your child will be supported by staff in completing their homework and/or revision.

Many students are already attending subject intervention sessions during tutor time, lunch, after school and some Saturdays. From next week any student who attends an intervention session will have their name entered into a weekly raffle to win 1 of 3 **£10 vouchers**. The more sessions they attend, the greater chance they have of winning the vouchers. Attendance to homework club will also count towards entry to this raffle if they have no subject intervention to attend. If a student attends 20+ interventions, they will be entered into the raffle to win 1 of **2 free prom tickets**.

If you have any questions about the upcoming exams, please contact Mr Molloy (Achievement Leader for Year 11) k.molloy@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 26th March**.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Friswell
Vice Principal