

26th October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

YEAR 11 MOCK EXAMINATIONS

In order to fully prepare our Year 11 students for the challenges of the summer examination period, we have planned a mock examination season to take place next term. Most of the exams will take place in the Sports Hall between **Monday 27th November to Friday 1st December 2023**, although it is worth highlighting that in some subjects, there will be examinations that take place in classrooms before and after this week. A generic plan of when the examinations will take place is attached to this letter and students will be given individual timetables, showing the exams they are sitting, after half term. If you have any questions about the details contained in the timetable, please contact Mrs J Hitchcock, Exams Officer jhitchcock@cirencesterkingshill.gloucs.sch.uk

The mock examinations are a crucial part of Year 11 students' preparation for their final GCSE examinations, and should be approached with the same degree of seriousness and effort. In a sense they are a "dress rehearsal" for the real thing, but additionally, they are part of the learning process required to ensure that students achieve their potential in the summer. The process of revision and mock testing helps students to improve their knowledge and skills and this can be built upon even further in the summer. Conversely, failure to revise properly for mocks is bound to have a long-term detrimental effect on performance in the final exams. Students and parents are also advised that colleges, sixth forms and training providers will often request mock exam results as part of a student's application to them for post-16 study. Students should approach these examinations with a determination to do their best and, therefore, prepare thoroughly. Each student's exam result will indicate overall attainment and illustrate how well they are achieving compared to the targets set at the start of Key Stage 4 and outlined on the school report that was sent home recently.

As outlined above, most exams will be held in our usual exam venues and will be undertaken and invigilated in formal conditions. Students are responsible for bringing the correct equipment for examinations and are advised to check what they need in advance with their subject teachers. For those SEND students who qualify for access arrangements, such as having a reader or extra time, these modifications will be in place throughout the mock exams.

Following on from our recent Study Skills session which so many of you attended with your children, we have continued to emphasise the need for students to explore different revision approaches and, as part of their activities in tutor time from the start of next term, this will be reinforced.



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RESULTS

We are keen to ensure a quick turnaround on the marking of students' papers and also to provide timely feedback and reflection of their work in these exams. As such, the results will be published on the morning of Monday 18th December 2023, during an official 'results day', similar to what they will experience next August. On that same date, there will also be a Parents' Evening, held in school during which time you will be able to discuss the results and action points with your child's teachers. More details on how to book appointments for this will follow.

As ever, thank you for your support in helping your child achieve their very best. We would appreciate you ensuring that they understand the significance of the forthcoming mock examinations and that they develop effective habits of studying at home to support their learning in school.

If you have any questions please do contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Morland
Senior Assistant Headteacher/Head of Key Stage 4