



TDMS

Tuesday 19 October 2021

Year 11 Mock and Summer Examinations

Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to begin by thanking you for your continued support over the past half term and for the foreseeable future. Mock examinations are an important element in the preparation for the summer examinations as they enable them to experience what it is like to sit formal examinations. Mock examinations are also an excellent source of assessment information, providing students and teachers with essential information that drives future planning and revision.

Due to Covid-19, the 2020/21 summer examination series did not take place and GCSE grades were awarded based upon a centre assessment grade for each student. This was the grade awarded to the students based on assessments they had completed over the two years of study. It is worth stressing that mock examinations will be a critical form of evidence for assigning centre assessment grades if the government chooses to use this grading method again in 2021/22. It is vital the students make every effort to achieve the best grades possible in these examinations.

We have been working on strategies to support effective revision; these include using flash cards, Cornell notes and quizzes. Research shows that these strategies are the most effective ways to embed heavily in the long term memory.

A sense of normality and routine is an important element of reassurance for students during this still unsettling time and so we would like to assure you that the planned mock examinations will go ahead. They will commence on Monday 22 November and will last for two weeks. Individual candidate timetables have been issued. In advance of this we will be practising the necessary routines with students to reduce anxiety levels as much as possible.

Part of this preparation is understanding the importance of the correct behaviour during formal exams and all mock examinations will run according to the regulations set by the awarding bodies. These regulations are available on our school website. Students will be made fully aware of all of the regulations associated with examinations in the lead up to the mock examinations. We are aware that examinations can also be a stressful time so we have shared some useful advice and guidance about dealing with anxiety on our school website.

The mock examinations have been adjusted to reflect the disruption to the students' learning during the Covid-19 pandemic. The examinations will only include material the students have studied so far in their GCSE courses. Teaching staff have adjusted the homework schedules so that they contain revision on the key content that students will need to be successful in the mock examinations. Students will also be following the pastoral revision programme in school which explains the most effective methods of independent study.

THE DE MONTFORT SCHOOL

Address: Four Pools Road, Evesham, Worcestershire, WR11 1DQ

Telephone: 01386 442060 **Email:** office@tdms.worcs.sch.uk

Website: www.tdms.worcs.sch.uk

In the event of the year group having to isolate during the planned mock examination dates, a contingency plan is in place and mock examinations will be moved back to the start of the spring term. If a student is absent for a mock examination, where possible, we will arrange an opportunity for them to sit the examination in the next available session or after school to ensure they are not disadvantaged in any way. Further details will be provided should the need arise.

We will be monitoring the students' effort and attitude in their examinations and will contact you if we have any concerns. Students who have not shown sufficient effort in these examinations will be re-taking them after school. This is to help the students understand the levels of effort required to be successful in their summer examinations.

In order to ensure a swift and calm start to all exams as well as protect students from any adverse weather, students will line up in the large hall. Students will be guided through this process so it becomes part of their exam procedure.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me at school or via email msandell@tdms.worcs.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely



Mr Sandell
Assistant Headteacher