

COLYTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Colyford, Colyton, Devon, EX24 6HN



Tel: 01297 552327 Email: admin@colytongrammar.devon.sch.uk Fax: 01297 553853

October 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian

YEAR 11 MOCK EXAMS

In order to prepare them fully for their GCSE exams in the summer, year 11 students have a series of mock exams next half term. These exams take place from **Monday 27 November to Friday 8 December** inclusive.

It is essential that all students realise the importance of these exams and the vital role they play in achieving success in their GCSEs. In our experience it is those pupils who prepare thoroughly for the mock exams that achieve the highest grades in the summer. Therefore, we obviously take these mock exams very seriously and it is important that the revision process starts early to ensure success.

Over the half-term break we strongly recommend that students spend some considerable time organising their notes, filling in any gaps and generally getting their revision materials in order. Students should be fully prepared and ready to start revision proper when they return (if they haven't already started by this point). In the lead-up to the mock exams we recommend that students spend two hours (split into smaller chunks) each evening on revision and exam preparation. They may still receive some normal lesson homework which will take priority, but if not the time should be used for revision instead.

Students have received tuition in PSHE sessions on how to manage their time in the run-up to exams. They have been provided with information on how to revise and how to find a technique that works well for them. Students will also be spending time in lessons looking at effective subject-based revision techniques. It is important that they listen to the advice given and carry out a variety of revision activities.

Students themselves need to ensure that they are well-organised with textbooks, lesson notes and past exam questions to test their understanding. They may be directed to refer to subject-specific websites but the vast majority of their revision does not require use of a computer (whatever they try to tell you!). Social media encroaches on study time and greatly affects concentration when revising. Limiting access to phones, tablets etc during the mock period is very important, and revising without them is an essential habit for them to get in to.

During the mock exam period, students will attend normal timetabled lessons when not in an exam. However, they will be expected to carry out silent independent revision during this time and should therefore come suitably prepared with a sufficient range and variety materials.

Following the mock exams, we advise that students keep up the good habits and continue to carry out two hours of work each evening wherever possible. Again they should make homework the priority, but fill spare time with revision activities as they do have a lot to cover. We also recommend that the Easter holidays are kept free for preparation for the real exams.

If you require any further help or information please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Yours faithfully

Mrs L Fitzhenry
Head of Sector – Key Stage 4