

23/11/2020

Dear Parents

**Year 11 GCSE Mock Exams, Monday 4 – Wednesday 13 January 2021 inclusive
(Art & French/German/Spanish Listening - December 2020)**

You are receiving your son's GCSE Mock Exam Timetable for January 2021 (Art, French, German and Spanish have some exams in December) and I do hope your son will very soon have a copy firmly stuck up above his place of work!

All boys have received a summary list of revision topics which is included for your information. I know that both you and your sons are very aware of the great importance of these mock exams should we have to move from June exams to Centre Assessment Grades either wholly or in part. Adequate and sustained revision over the next two months is therefore essential and will certainly help prepare him for any and all future exams.

The boys have no study leave for any exams in December. The main exam session lasts from Monday 4 January to Wednesday 13 January and boys have study leave for the entirety of that time. We will speak with the boys about how best to organise their time during study leave and would be grateful if you could reinforce the key messages. Rather than treating study leave as extra holiday time, our recommendation is that the boys establish a similar structure to a normal working school day, so they should:

- Keep to their usual weekday waking and sleeping times
- Work in "periods" i.e. focus on one subject or topic for an agreed time, take a break and then swap subjects or topics
- Work with a virtual study partner if this is beneficial to both of them
- Not access social media during "school" hours

All boys must return to school on **Thursday 14 January**.

If your son comes into school to revise, he **must** use the finger scanner/registration list in the Student Hub to indicate his presence on site and again to indicate when he is leaving. Study leave will have an impact on your son's attendance record for the Spring term as we can only record attendance if a student is actually in school. On the days he does not have an exam or does not register in school to revise, this will be recorded as an authorised absence for mock exam study leave. Please note that the SIMS Parent App will only indicate whether your son is in school or out of school - it will not show whether his absence is authorised or not. However, we would always contact you if he had any unauthorised absences.

Boys who choose an EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) or Critical Thinking for OMDVs as their fifth subject in the Sixth Form will also need to have good results in mocks (top 50 % of year group) to allow that choice to be ratified. This will not preclude them choosing it after good results are received in August.

I wish your sons good preparation and encouraging results in January.

Kind regards
Hilary Munday
Assistant Head