



Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School & Sixth Form Centre

'True Teaching'

Headmaster: Dr Simon Uttley FRSA KHS

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to inform you of the upcoming Year 10 mock examination process. Mock Exams begin on the week beginning the 17th of June and will last for two weeks. During that time, students will complete assessments under exam conditions, similar to the experience of sitting real GCSE exams.

The aims of these exams are two-fold. Firstly, it provides students the opportunity to experience real examination conditions, getting them used to the stresses and pressures of exams well in advance of the real thing. Secondly, it provides teachers an accurate benchmark by which to gauge student progress as these exams are often very similar to real GCSE exam papers. From this point, teachers are able to determine the level of exam skill and knowledge of their students and target their intervention effectively.

While these examinations do not count towards a student's final GCSE grade, they will be considered by teachers when completing reports and may be reflected in references made to colleges and potential employers early next year. Students should therefore take this opportunity seriously and ensure they are well prepared.

The timetable for the mock examinations will be published to students and parents alongside this letter. Option subjects will be examined in the first week, during extended lessons in the classroom, and core subjects; RE, English, Maths, and Science will take place in the Sports Hall, to simulate the final examination experience in the Summer of 2025. Our previous experience has shown this to be hugely beneficial to the students, in familiarising them with the exam experience in preparation for the GCSEs.

The timetable attached is generic, as such the option block exams are noted according to their blocks. This corresponds to the subject that students take in that block. If they are unsure it will be the subject that is on their timetable in the following slots, this can be checked on Class Charts.

- Option Block A in Week A (this week) Monday period 4
- Option Block B in Week A (this week) Tuesday period 2
- Option Block C in Week A (this week) Monday period 1
- Option Block D in Week A (this week) Thursday period 4

In order to ensure that students are prepared, I attach a list of the various topics that will be examined in each subject area, students should focus their attention on these specific topics when they are studying.

Students have already been given advice on how best to approach their revision, in order to support them fully, please encourage them to be organised and approach their revision logically, ensuring they spend equal amounts of time among all their subjects.





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The initial study skills session, that was run on 1st May, has given students some insight into the best way to do this. The supporting resources from this session can be found on the Student Portal at elevateeducation.com. We are also continuing to work on this programme during Tutor Time on Thursdays.

It is also beneficial for students, where possible to have a quiet, relaxing space where they are able to focus on their work. Students should also be encouraged to take regular breaks from revision to ensure their minds are well enough rested to make learning effective.

Exams can be a stressful time for students. While a small amount of stress is normal, and can even be beneficial, some of our students may find the pressure of exams overwhelming. In school, we run exam stress sessions to help some of our Y11 students through their exams. If you feel that your child would benefit from this, please get in touch and we will ensure they are supported through the challenges of next year.

Students studying BTEC courses – Health & Social Care and Sport – will not sit mock exams as they coursework-based subjects. During the extended class time, which would have been the exam session, for these subjects they will be working towards completing their coursework with teacher support.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this process, please do not hesitate to email me at e.wright@hughfaringdon.org

Best wishes,

Miss E Wright
Head of Year 10

