

4 January 2022

Dear Parent or Carer,

RE: Year 13 mock exams

The mock exams for Year 13 will take place in the week commencing Monday 17 January. We are absolutely delighted with the hard work students have put in to prepare for these mock exams.

If a student is absent from school during a mock exam, we are able to give the student another opportunity to sit the mock exam in school. If a student is absent for more than one mock exam, the mock exam paper will be made available on Microsoft Teams. We ask that students complete the mock exam at home under exam conditions and within the allotted time (when they are well enough). Once complete, students should send mock exams back into school to be marked.

You may have seen that the government have issued guidance for schools on contingency planning in the unlikely event that GCSE exams do not go ahead as planned in 2022. The intention and expectation of the government is that exams will go ahead as planned and we will focus our efforts on preparing students for these exams. However, schools are being asked to take some actions as part of the contingency plans.

Students who left school in 2021 were awarded 'Teacher Assessed Grades' as exams were cancelled. These were based on a holistic view of what a student had learned during their time at school. As part of this process, schools had to collate evidence which formed an 'evidence pack'. This evidence pack was available for inspection by the exam boards as part of their quality assurance process. Exam boards asked to see the evidence packs for a sample of students to ensure that this evidence supported the grades that were awarded. The majority of this evidence was formed by assessments that students completed in summer 2021.

The guidance currently states that schools must create similar evidence packs this year. Please be assured that the forthcoming mock exams will not be part of any evidence pack. Students will be told in advance that any assessment would form part of the evidence pack should exams be cancelled. One such assessment will take place in the spring term and we will write to you with further details of this in the new year.

The primary purpose for these mock exams is for teachers to identify gaps in student knowledge. These gaps can then be addressed in subsequent lessons. It is vitally important that students understand this to be the case, so that in the event of sitting a

mock exam at home, they complete it as they would in school in order to benefit fully from the identification of gaps in knowledge. To reiterate, mock exams (whether sat at school or at home) would not form part of evidence seen by the exam boards in the event that exams were cancelled.

Thank you for your support with this. If you require any further information please feel free to contact the school.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Andrews'. The signature is stylized with a large initial 'D' and a long, sweeping flourish at the end.

Mr D Andrews
Head of Sixth Form