

25th February 2021

Mb/20_21/Letter to Yr 13 Parents re mock assessments

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 13 Students

Year 13 Mock Assessments on 24th and 25th March

We are organising mock assessments for our Year 13 students and I am writing to give you the same information that has been sent direct to students this morning. Tutors will collate any questions students have and they will be addressed in my assembly early next week, once we have confirmation from Ofqual later today about KS5 assessments for this year.

Information for students and parents

- We are planning for Year 13 to take mock assessments on 24th and 25th March.
- We are making these plans now, assuming that Year 13 students will have a similar form of formal assessment this summer.
- We will review these plans after Ofqual and the DfE have published the outcome of their consultation on 25th February.
- We expect to be able to confirm arrangements for mock assessments by 3rd March.
- Please direct any questions to your Head of Year.

Which subjects will have a mock assessment?

- All A-levels
- Vocational courses - we are currently discussing this with subject leaders and we expect some vocational courses will run assessments.

How long will each mock assessment last?

- 2 hours - you will have an assessment which lasts for **exactly** 2 hours. Each subject will have just one assessment.
- The mock assessment timetable is as follows:

| | 8:45am start | 12:15pm start |
|----------|--------------|---------------|
| 24.03.21 | Option 1 | Option 2 |
| 25.03.21 | Option 3 | Option 4 |

What will be assessed?

- We will assess content from Y12 and Y13, reflecting the typical balance of assessment objectives and specification content in an examination. Year 13 content is expected to focus on work from terms 1 and 2.

What will the mock assessments consist of?

- Exam questions

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When will we know what to revise?

- Teachers will publish the content of the assessments no later than Wednesday 10th March.
- We will tell you in detail which topics to revise.
- A single 2-hour assessment cannot cover the whole course.

Where will these mock assessments take place?

- In the Sports Hall (TBC), with access arrangements in G182
- Assessments will run under exam conditions

Access arrangements

- All students entitled to access arrangements will be given these.
- We are using some new software to facilitate these arrangements and Year 13 students will be trained to use this on 16th March.
- The SEN department will contact you with details of this training.

Will these mock assessments count towards final grades this summer?

- We cannot confirm this at present, but the answer is likely to be that a strong performance in these mocks will be beneficial to you when we make our final assessments this summer.

Why are we doing these mocks?

- They help you focus by reviewing previous work.
- They give you the chance to show us what you can do, in much the same way that we expect the final assessment to do so.
- They allow you to prepare for assessment in the way we expect you will need to for final assessment this summer.

Will we be given grades for these mocks?

- We will mark these assessments and give you feedback so that you know how to improve or sustain the same standard.
- We expect to have more guidance from Ofqual and exam boards which will help us give realistic grades for the mock assessments.

When will we know how final assessment works?

- Ofqual and the DfE are expected to publish their response to their consultation on 25th February.
- We will have more information at this point and we will let you know as much as we can as soon as possible.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Yours faithfully

G Joyce

Mrs G Joyce
Head of Year 13