



Our Ref: FMM/KON

December 2023

ALL YEAR 11 PARENTS/CARERS

Dear Parents/Carers

Mock Examinations – November/December 2023

As our first term comes to a close, I'm writing to thank you for your on-going support in what can be a very stressful year for some pupils. As you are aware, Year 11 have recently completed their second set of mock examinations and have started to receive feedback from their subject teachers. Such feedback is crucial to progress as it highlights exactly where each pupil needs to focus their efforts. To this end, please could you encourage your child to talk with you about their feedback as soon as it is received, as this helps with the learning process.

As you can see from the timeline provided at the end of this letter, mock examinations were dove-tailed with assemblies; the first being to remind pupils about exam conduct (in line with JCQ regulations), exam tips and revision strategies, and the latter used to review and reflect once the examinations were complete. I am very happy to say that our Year 11's response to both exams and assemblies was very promising indeed, and feel certain that this will continue to be the case for their third and final set of mock examinations in February/March 2024.

Looking Ahead to 2024

In January 2024, you will be receiving your child's penultimate report from us. Mock grades will be sent out separate to the report. The mock grade sheet will give an indication of how pupils are performing in each subject under strict exam conditions. The report gives an overview of how the pupil is performing overall (including those not examined in the mocks).

The release of reports will then be followed by Year 11's final face to face Parents' Evening at Dormston. **As you can appreciate, it's vital that parents/carers attend and would ask if for any reason you are unable to attend that you email me in advance.**

Attendance

As you are aware, full attendance at school is vital to final outcomes and I would like to take this opportunity to share with you once again data from last year's cohort which highlights this crucial relationship. Whilst we understand and appreciate that there will always be absence, we would ask that wherever possible, pupils are in school so that they have access to daily teaching, revision sessions and the chance to be with friends which is vital for well-being.

Attendance figure (2022 – 2023)	The number of grades below or above Target Grades	
Below 80%	-2.5	<p>This table shows the relationship between attendance and outcomes. For example, if a child attended school less than 80% of the time last year, on average they missed their target grades by over two grades in each subject.</p> <p>On the other hand, if a child attended over 97% last year, on average they over-achieved by half a grade in each subject.</p>
Between 80%-85%	-0.72	
Between 85-90 %	-0.37	
Between 95-97%	+ 0.18	
Between 97-100%	+0.50	

Post-16 College Applications and Open Days:

One of our main recommendations is that all students have made at least 2 applications for Sixth Form and/or college by the end of this term. One application as main choice and at least one as a back up. Students can apply for numerous courses and colleges.

If applications have been made, students should accept ALL offers at this stage. A final decision does not have to be made until after GCSE Results Day in August.

If no applications have yet been made, then over the Christmas break is an ideal time to apply - before the pressures of the next round of mock examinations.

There are some college open days in January 2024 and if your son/daughter has not yet attended, it is advisable to book so that your place can be secured. You will be able to have a tour of the campus, talk to tutors about the content of the course and also enquire about transport and/or bus passes:

- Dudley College/Sixth, Saturday 13 January 2024 (10am -2pm): Wolverhampton College, Saturday 13 January 2024 (10am -2pm): Halesowen College, Saturday 20 January 2024 (10am -2pm)

If your son/daughter is looking at the apprenticeship route, it is important that they also apply to college as back up. We will be holding some Apprenticeship workshops after school 19/20 March and 23 April 2024. These will be led by ASK Apprenticeships and will provide support for searching for vacancies, applications, CVs and interviews. We will confirm details nearer the dates.

Mr Small, Independent Careers Advisor is also holding Apprenticeship Webinars as detailed in our Careers Newsletter.

Please do check our Careers Newsletter as it contains important updates from colleges/sixth forms as well as any work experience opportunities and apprenticeship vacancies. We will also include this information in the Class of 2024 folder on our website.

It only remains for me to wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas and to thank you once again, for your unwavering support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Mescam

Mrs Mescam
Assistant Head – Year 11 Attainment

Key Dates

June 2023

- ✓ Mock 1
- ✓ Mock 1 Feedback Assembly
- ✓ Data

September – December 2023 (15 wks/75 days)

- ✓ Welcome to Year 11 Assembly
- ✓ Study Skills (PSHE Programme)
- ✓ Careers Programme (ASK Apprenticeships & Halesowen College)
- ✓ Post-16 Evening (3.10.23)
- ✓ Revision lessons (for key subjects)
- ✓ Revision drop-ins (A10)
- ✓ College & Apprenticeships Applications
- ✓ University of Wolverhampton (Study Skills)
- ✓ A' Level Workshop – 24.10.23
- ✓ Mocks 2 – 28.11.23
- ✓ Mocks 2 Feedback Assembly & Letter home
- ✓ Data
- ✓ BTEC controlled assessments (Oct & March '24)

January – March 2024 (10 wks 49 days)

Revision drop-ins (Mon, Wed, Thu, Fr – A10)
Data drop – 10th Jan 2023
Mock 3 - 26.2.24
Mock 3 Assembly & Feedback
University of Wolverhampton
Revision classes continue
Reports to parents 24.1.24
Parents' Consultation 25.1.24
Year 11 photos 28.2.24

April – June 2023

BTEC exams start – May 2nd 2024 (4 weeks – 20 days)
GCSE exams start – practical exams begin in May 2024

June 2024

27th June Prom

August 2024

Thursday 22nd Results



***Please note, all pupils must be available to sit their final GCSEs between the following dates: 2nd May - 26th June 2024. In light of this, it's critical that holidays aren't booked over this period as there will be no other opportunity to sit this series of exams. The final exam timetable will be released early in the new year.**

Revision Sites & Apps:

Maths: (AQA)

- <https://www.mathsgenie.co.uk>
- <https://vle.mathswatch.co.uk>
- <https://senecalearning.com>
- <https://www.pinpointlearning.co.uk>
- <https://corbettmaths.com>
- <http://www.mrbartonmaths.com>

English Language (AQA) & English Literature (WJEC)

- <https://dormston.dudley.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Unit-10.5-Poetry-Anthology.pdf>
- <https://www.youtube.com/@dormstonschoolenglishdept4689>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HZelSp4ONFg>https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=aqa+spolight+on+english+language

Science: (AQA)

- <https://senecalearning.com>
- <https://www.educake.co.uk>
- <https://www.freesciencelessons.co.uk>

Computing (OCR) &**Business Studies (Edexcel)**

<https://www.youtube.com/@craigndave/videos>

<https://senecalearning.com>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

Citizenship (AQA)

<https://www.youtube.com/@mrsdowncitizenship9053/videos>

French & German (AQA)

<https://www.linguascope.com>

<https://www.pearsonactivelearn.com>

<https://www.languagesonline.org.uk>

<https://quizlet.com>

Geography (AQA)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

<http://www.geography.learnontheinternet.co.uk/map.html>

Health & Social Care

Pupils have their own CGP Revision Guide and Work Booklet for components 1,2&3

History (OCR B)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

(OCR B Units)

<https://www.youtube.com/@dormstohistory3419/videos>

Technology

Food (WJEC/Eduqas)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

Design & Technology (AQA)

<https://www.technologystudent.com>

Pupils also have their own Revision Guide

The Arts

Music (OCR)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

Pupils have been sent links from Mr Richardson.

Drama (Edexcel)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zkvm2sg>

<https://www.youtube.com/@NationalTheatre>

<https://www.youtube.com/@thinklearning3819>

Pupils also have their portfolios (on Microsoft Teams) to work on, and their live theatre notes too. The website for this is:

<https://oceanonstage.com/learning>

Art (AQA)

Pupils have coursework they have been asked to work on.

Dance (AQA)

Mrs Elliot's Flash Cards

PE (AQA) Pupils have revision guides.

Pupils have revision guides

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>