



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Re: Mock Exams

The year 10 mock exams will be held for the first two weeks after the Easter holidays. In the first week the exams will be held in the gym, hall and C13 for students who require access arrangements, in the second week the exams will take place in classrooms. This is due to the earlier start of GCSE exams this year.

When students take exams in these rooms there is a strict seating plan which the students must make sure they are aware of, so they need to know which row they are on, this is done through an alphabet letter and then their seat number. Seating allocation can be identified on the students timetable. We are hoping to publish these on the app rather than sending out printed copies, but this will be confirmed at a later date. There will also be seating lists located outside the hall and C13 for the students to refer. Before the exam they will line up on the year 7 playground by the letter and then in seat number order. A member of staff will be there to assist and then a senior member of staff reads to them the exam rules and regulations.

Please can you make sure that students have a clear pencil case, if they decide not to they will have to carry their equipment in. They are allowed a water bottle but this must also be clear and have no labels attached to it, this must only contain water, no other drinks will be permitted. Pupils will need several black biro pens, as all exam boards require them to write in black biro as this scans the best for the markers.

Students will also need a ruler, protractor, set square, compass, pencil, rubber and a scientific calculator. Students will need a scientific calculator for their maths exam, geography exam and their science exams so please make sure students have a scientific calculator they can use. Students are responsible for making sure that their calculators meet the awarding bodies' regulations. All JCQ guidance can be found on our website and links will be attached to timetables.

Stotfold Road, Arlesey, Bedfordshire, SG15 6XS

T 01462 730391 E etaoffice@bestacademies.org.uk W www.etonbury.com

Principal: Mrs Joanne Young



We expect students to sit these exams in full school uniform with blazers on, students could be prevented from sitting an exam if they do not comply with our uniform rules. This rule is also enforced by the JCQ authority who oversee the exam process. Students must wear their blazer, if it is warm in the hall they will be given permission to remove it. Please also make sure that student's are also meeting jewellery expectations and remember any bracelets will all need to be removed prior to the exam. If students have mobile phones, watches or headphones, they all must be switched off and will be placed in a plastic bag and collected by the invigilators if these are brought into the exam.

I would just like to highlight the importance of the mock exams, they give us and the student an opportunity to see how the process works before their mocks in year 11, and their GCSE exams next academic year. Mock exams also allow us to monitor student progress providing valuable insights into areas where they excel and where they might need additional support. The grades can also be called upon as evidence of their capabilities from the exam board in certain circumstances. And lastly, their mock grades may also be important for predicted grades for applications to Sixth Form or college next year. So, for several reasons these mock exams are very important.

I would really like to encourage students to be completing revision from now until after the mock exams. Research shows that a little and often is the best way forward. I would suggest doing three, 20 minute slots with 5 minute breaks for five sessions in a week. I have put together an example timetable to show you what your revision timetable might look like.

It would also be best to set a specific time in which your child does this, so from 6 to 7.30pm for example, and I would encourage you to not allow them access to their phones at this time so that they don't get distracted.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
English	Option 1: History	English	Option 4: Psychology			English
Maths	Option 2: Geography	Maths	English			Maths
Chemistry	Option 3: Computing	Biology	Maths			Physics

Students have been working on study skills during Wednesday's tutor programme and have been taught different study techniques such as; interleaving, flash cards, mind mapping to name but a few. Research shows that revision needs to be active to retain the most amount of information, so students must do something when it comes to studying, reading isn't enough. They must make notes and add pictures to their notes to help them remember. This is called dual coding. Once their flashcards have been created they can use these to quiz themselves or you could also do this with them. You might choose to allow them to stick their notes on the bedroom wall so that they can easily go look at them. Having a small whiteboard to write down their ideas and summarise what they know helps them to retrieve information.



There is also a school revision website which they can use to access resources for each of their subjects, <https://sites.google.com/bestacademies.org.uk/eta-ks4-revision/home>.

This is not an exclusive list of everything, and is not me telling you what to do, I am just offering ideas which you may or may not find helpful with supporting your child or children through their mock exams.

I hope you find these tips useful, if you do have any questions please feel free to contact me, khume@bestacademies.org.uk

Kind regards

Mrs K Hume **Head of Year 10**

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