



# New Mills School

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## Dear Parents and Carers of Year 11 Students,

As we approach the first set of Year 11 mock examinations, I would like to take this opportunity to emphasise the importance of these examinations and how you can support your child in preparing for them.

Mock examinations are a crucial part of the GCSE journey. They give students the opportunity to experience formal examination conditions, practise examination techniques, develop confidence, and identify areas that require further improvement before the final GCSE examinations. The outcomes of the mocks also help teachers to provide targeted intervention and support, ensuring that every student is working towards achieving their full potential.

Each student has now been issued with an individual mock examination timetable. Please encourage your child to check their timetable carefully and become familiar with the dates, times, and locations of their examinations. Having a clear understanding of their schedule will help them plan their revision effectively and reduce unnecessary stress.

## Making the Most of Half-Term Revision

The half-term break provides an invaluable opportunity for focused revision. Students who revise consistently over this period are likely to feel more confident and prepared when they sit their examinations.

We recommend that students:

- Create a realistic revision timetable and spread revision across all subjects.
- Focus on areas of weakness as well as maintaining strengths.
- Complete past paper questions and practise under timed conditions.
- Use revision guides, flashcards, knowledge organisers, and subject-specific resources.
- Take regular breaks and maintain a healthy balance between study, rest, exercise, and sleep.

Even short periods of concentrated revision each day can make a significant difference to performance and confidence.

## Mock Examination Rules and Regulations

To ensure that all examinations are conducted fairly and in line with GCSE examination standards, students must adhere to the following expectations:

### Before the Examination

- Arrive at least 10 minutes before the published start time.
- Bring the correct equipment, including black pens, pencils, ruler, calculator (where required), and any other approved examination materials.
- Ensure mobile phones, smart watches, earphones, and any electronic devices are switched off and placed in bags or handed in as instructed.

### **During the Examination**

- Follow all instructions given by invigilators immediately and without question.
- Maintain complete silence once inside the examination room.
- Raise a hand if assistance is required.
- Work independently at all times.
- Do not attempt to communicate with other students.
- Remain seated until dismissed by the invigilator.

### **Items Not Permitted**

- Mobile phones or smart devices.
- Headphones or earbuds.
- Notes, revision materials, or unauthorised papers.
- Pencil cases (unless transparent if permitted by the school).
- Drinking bottles that are not clear or have writing on them.

### **Malpractice**

Any form of cheating or attempting to gain an unfair advantage will be treated extremely seriously. This includes:

- Bringing unauthorised materials into the examination room.
- Communicating with another student.
- Using a mobile phone or electronic device.
- Copying or attempting to copy another student's work.

Such behaviour may result in the examination being cancelled and further school sanctions being applied.

## **Working Together for Success**

The mock examinations are a significant milestone for Year 11 students. They provide a valuable indication of current progress and help students understand what is needed to achieve their GCSE goals next summer. We ask for your support in encouraging positive revision habits over the half-term break and ensuring that your child is fully prepared and equipped for each examination.

Thank you for your continued support. We are confident that, with focused preparation and commitment, our students will approach their mock examinations with confidence and determination.

Yours sincerely

Mr Taylor,

Year 11 Lead