



Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Year 11 Mock Examinations (Wednesday 9th January to Thursday 24th January 2019)

Introduction

The Year 11 Mock Examinations taking place from Monday 9th January to Thursday 24th January 2019 are a very important part of your child's preparations for their final GCSE exams next summer. They will provide the students with the opportunity to experience completing written papers under exam conditions and give them valuable experience of dealing with a number of papers in a short space of time.

The students are being supported in their preparation for these exams in a number of ways. These include:

- a launch assembly on the revision process in Term 1
- the Year 11 Revision Evening on 12th November
- sessions with other Year 11 students in their House on how to plan their revision and how to revise
- support from subject teachers on revision strategies, specific to each subject
- providing a Year 11 Exam Booklet which includes information on what they need to revise in each subject
- providing students with structured homework over the next few weeks which will focus on preparing them for these exams
- additional revision sessions which are being provided in many subjects

It is very important that your child prepares thoroughly for these exams. By doing as well as possible, it will help boost their confidence in the run up to next summer's final GCSE exams. The grades which your child achieves in these exams, will also be used to help determine their predicted GCSE grades. These will be shared with the schools and colleges students are applying to for post-16 study.

Along with a copy of the mock exam timetable, we have also attached a schedule of key assessment and exam dates for Year 11 with this letter. As you will see from this schedule in most subjects this will be their only set of mocks. However, there will be a second set of mock exams in English and maths in early March. There will also be two sets of mock speaking assessments in the MFL subjects.

Revision

I have also attached a copy of an assembly presentation I gave to Year 11 before half term. It focused on helping them organise their revision including how to write a revision timetable. Some of the other key 'top tips' I would like to pass on include:

- ensure that the revision timetable is realistic – with the amount of time spent on revision building up over the next few weeks as less 'normal' homework is set
- aim for 2-3 hours per evening of focused revision in the last few weeks of term
- cover all your subjects within a fortnight and make sure that you devote similar amounts of time to each subject rather than focusing on the ones you are doing better at/ enjoy most
- work in short blocks of time (perhaps 45 minutes at a time) before having a short break

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- ensure that revision is active (e.g. testing yourselves/ being tested by others; practising exam questions) rather than simply reading through notes
- use the Christmas holidays to revise – while at the same time building some 'holiday time' into your revision schedule (aim for 3-4 hours of revision per day on most days of the break)

A variety of other revision related resources are accessible on the school website by clicking on the following link:

[Link to exams section of school website](#)

In many subjects additional revision sessions are being put on at lunchtime and after school. The link to the revision sessions taking place in school can be found below:

[Link to Year 11 revision sessions](#)

Exam Conduct

It is very important that students arrive at the exam venue 10 minutes before the scheduled start time. If they are taking their exams in a venue other than the School Hall they will be informed of the venue by the Exams Office. We will also be providing the students with an individual exam timetable before the end of this term – a copy of which will be sent home via School Comms.

If your child has 50% additional time it is important to check the afternoon exam timetable because there may be some days when the exam will go beyond the end of the school day. In such a situation your child will not be able to catch a school bus and alternative travel arrangements will need to be made.

All students will also need to ensure that they have all the correct equipment for every as we will not be lending any unless what they are using breaks or runs out of ink. Further details about the running of the exams and the equipment they are required to bring can be found by clicking on the link to the exams section of the school website– and downloading the Year 11 Mock Assembly presentation.

If you have any questions about the mock exams please contact Mrs Farman, our Examinations Officer – vfarm@gilottts.org.uk

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our Year 11 students a very successful final year at Gillotts School. If you would like to discuss your son/daughter's progress further, please arrange a meeting with the form tutor by contacting the house base direct. We also look forward to seeing you on Thursday 14th February 2019 for the Year 11 Parent Consultation Evening.

Yours faithfully



Dr E.J. Newbold
Deputy Headteacher