

20 November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

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Year 11 Spring Mock Examinations Tuesday 9 January - Wednesday 31 January 2024

Attached you will find a copy of the Year 11 Spring Mock Examination Timetable. The mock examinations will be sat in the Sports Hall or, if your child has specific exam dispensation, an agreed alternative venue, and will follow strict examination rules and regulations. Students will be required to be in school, in correct uniform, during the mock examination period. **Examinations will start at 9:00am and 1:00pm** each day. The arrangement for each day is outlined below:

- **Students sitting an examination in the morning slot will be dismissed to their period 2 lesson at the end of the exam**
- **All students attend their normal timetabled lesson during period 3**
- **Students sitting the afternoon examination will have an early lunch at 12:20 and will be dismissed home at the end of the exam**
- **Students not sitting an afternoon examination will attend their normal lessons periods 4 and 6. They will have lunch at normal time and will be dismissed, as usual, at 3:15pm**

Can you please have a look at the timetable with your child and ensure that they are prepared for each examination. The minimum equipment required for each examination is as follows:

- **A clear pencil case**
- **A black ink pen**
- **A pencil**
- **A ruler**
- **A rubber**
- **A calculator if the paper/subject requires one**

They can bring a bottle of water into the examination, but the wrapper will need to be removed. **No other items are allowed into the examination venue this includes phones and Smart watches, these must be off and in students' bags.** The mock examinations will be run as if they were the student's real GCSE examinations and therefore it is good practice to get into the habit of what is required for the examinations. We want to remind that mocks are compulsory, failure to attend will lead to students being made to re-sit at another time, most likely after school.

Please be aware that for the real exams students are not able to retake examinations if they miss them, as these are nationally set. **We are reasonable at Tallis, but we would like to remind that any missed examinations (including mocks) without justification will lead to us withdrawing the opportunity for your child to attend the end of Year 11 prom.**

Support for students

The Thomas Tallis Year 11 support and guidance page (<https://www.thomastallischool.com/year-11-support-guidance.html>) includes links to the various subject support pages, the after school intervention timetable, holiday sessions when they are on offer, and links to GCSEPod, Sparx Maths and software to create a revision timetable.

Year 11 students will have assemblies where the following things where the following will be outlined:

Why mock exams?

- It is chance for students to experience what a full set of examinations feels like
- A chance for teachers to give students feedback on how to improve before the final exams
- Mock grades are used to indicate most likely outcome grades for Sixth Form and college applications

How should students revise?

- Follow the subject revision list which will be given out by teachers over the coming weeks

inquisitive • collaborative • persistent • disciplined • imaginative

- Have a daily schedule of revision, which includes breaks and time to do things apart from schoolwork
- Use the programme of intervention, and support provided by groups such as XFN, in school
- Students can also use the library as a quiet place of study after school
- Students should make sure their revision is active, that is, that they are always doing something. This could be making flashcards, making notes, answering exam questions, and so on
- We also recommend students spend time applying their knowledge, for example by answering exam questions or completing quizzes, to check and review their understanding

Top tips for emotional wellbeing during exam revision

In our assembly, students were advised to:

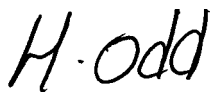
- Make sure you don't revise late into the night
- Take regular exercise / do activities that are not revision or schoolwork every day
- Keep a sense of perspective
- Not to procrastinate (put things off) – students always feel much less stressed once some work has been done
- Be proud of what you have done, not just worrying about the work you still have left to do
- Remember you are more resilient than you know

Please do contact subject teachers, form tutors, or the Year 11 team if you have any further questions. If you have any questions, or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely



**Steven Fyfe
Katherine Walsh
Assistant Headteacher**



**Heather
AAHT KS4**



**Odd
Deputy Headteacher**