



17th June 2024

Ref: MAL/hsa

Dear Parents and carers,

I am writing with regards to the Year 10 internal exams. The students have shown great dedication and focus during this time, often seen revising in designated areas around the school, including the library.

The Year 10 mocks are an integral part of the GCSE preparation process, providing the necessary experience of being in an exam room and building resilience. These mocks are crucial in preparing the students for the real GCSE exams, and their completion is vital.

The mocks are designed to begin the experience of the real GCSE exams. Moreover, the mocks will determine if any student is eligible for access arrangements. The mock process and other assessments will be used as evidence to request access arrangements such as extra time, ensuring that each student receives the necessary support. This and other assessments will form part of the evidence submitted for any access arrangements. Please do not assume your child will be eligible.

During this process, it is normal for students to experience nervousness and anxiety. We have comprehensive pastoral support in place to help them manage these feelings, as part of the mock process. We have also delivered detailed assemblies which answer any questions they may have.

It is imperative that the mocks are conducted with the same rigor as the real exams to instil the importance of high expectations and to ensure the integrity of the exam process. No allowances can be made during the mocks.

We understand that this may be a worrying time for you as parents and carers. Rest assured that the mock process is designed to build resilience within the students, helping them become independent and confident in challenging situations. We all want the students to succeed, and the mock process is aimed at fostering their resilience. While we aim to protect our students from distress, it is equally important to prepare them to face difficulties with confidence. I am a firm believer in that we cannot protect them from difficult experiences but we can certainly prepare them. Thank you for your understanding and support throughout this process

We are committed to ensuring a smooth process for the students, and I want to assure all parents that we will support and guide them through this period. In the event that a student has a query or issue about any exam, it is crucial that they inform the invigilator at the time or contact their Head of Year Ms Donnell, Exams officer Ms Brown, or myself immediately after the exam. We have a system in place to resolve such matters promptly



and ensure that the students' concerns are addressed. It is unhelpful when students come home with concerns which results in unprofessional emails or demands made by parents.

Furthermore, I kindly request that all parents and students understand the effort put in by teachers to plan, mark, and moderate the mock papers. At times, a number of subjects have to conduct this for the whole year group or indeed a number of classes in addition to also conducting the same process for Year 12 subjects. Please be mindful that we do still have external exams also running on alternative times to external exams in addition to year 12 also experiencing a mock process. It is essential that all communication with the school regarding mock exams is conducted in a professional and respectful manner.

Additionally, there will be a mock results day set up for Year 10 students, which will provide them with their first experience of a results day and help them prepare for the external results day. The aim of this is so they can consider what they wish to feel on the external results day. For example, if they are pleased with results for them to continue to hard work and have the reassurance they are on the right path and if results are not as expected then they ensure they have the determination to persevere and try again knowing they have another opportunity to improve.

We are here to address any queries in a professional manner, and we appreciate your cooperation in maintaining a supportive and constructive approach towards the students' education.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs M. Allitt
Deputy Headteacher