

24 May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 10 Mock Examinations Mon 21 June 2021 to Mon 2 July 2021

I am writing to inform you about the upcoming end of year mock exams for Year 10 students. Mock exams provide an essential opportunity for students to familiarise themselves with the format and content of GCSE and Vocational examination papers and provides both students and their teachers a clear indicator of current and future academic performance.

It is vital that students put 100% effort into all their revision and mock exams, as they will provide important information on areas of strength, weakness and also identify any misconceptions. Given the pandemic we have now been living with for more than a year, results from these mock examinations could also be used as evidence to support the final grade your child is awarded next year, should there be a need to go into lockdown or work within restrictions imposed by government (though, of course, we all hope this will not be the case).

The Year 10 examinations this year will take place during a two-week period as outlined above. We will share a full timetable with students and parents shortly. Staging examinations across this period will give students a better idea of what to expect in Year 11 when they sit their final GCSE exams. The examinations will be held during the time when lessons would normally take place. This is due to the normal areas of the building where exams would usually take place, such as the auditorium, being used for operational matters concerning Covid-19. We are confident that sitting exams in classrooms, where lessons normally take place, will not in any way detract from the importance of the exams.

Students must ensure that they have at least two black pens (one spare) for all examinations and any other necessary equipment. Under no circumstances are students have a mobile phone or smart watch with them, these must either be handed in to the class teacher for safe keeping or switched off and stored securely in their school bag. Bottles of water (without labels) may be taken into the assessment classroom. Topic lists will be provided by class teachers who will also give clear guidance to students as to how to revise in preparation for these exams. Students are expected to revise all the topics and units listed in preparation for these examinations and assessments. Students will be directed by their subject teachers to revision material on our online learning platforms, including Hegarty Maths and Seneca learning, revision lists will be posted via Teams in the Year 10 home learning sections.

As parents, you can support your child by assisting them to organise themselves in the run up to these examinations. Please ask your child to share with you how they intend to revise. Discuss with them how they will balance the demands of all of their subjects, as well as any outside commitments they may have. It is vital that all students prepare thoroughly for their exams; our recommendation is that students should be investing at least 1-2 hours of revision each weekday and approximately 3-4 hours at the weekend.

A date for your diary is **Tuesday 22 June 2021**, when we will hold our **Year 10 Parents' Evening**; this will be an excellent opportunity to discuss the progress your child is making. More information on how to arrange appointments for the evening will be sent to you in due course.



I would like to take this opportunity to wish our students the best of luck with these assessments. I am confident that they will prepare for them thoroughly and make this a positive finish to what has been an unprecedented year. If you have any further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact me in school by emailing diane.whitehead@appletonacademy.co.uk.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours faithfully

Diane Whitehead
Deputy Headteacher – Secondary Attainment and Standards.