



Year 11 January Mock Exams 2026

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

Year 11 students will sit their 'January Mock Exams' from **Tuesday 6th to Tuesday 20th January 2026**. All exams will be in the Main Hall/SFSA for all students unless otherwise indicated. **For all morning exams students need to line up at 08:40 and for the afternoon exams at 13:10. For the remainder of the academic year lunchtime will move to 12:30 – 13:30 for the whole school, to allow morning and afternoon exam sittings.**

Study Leave

When Year 11 **students are not in exams, they will have *study leave* from Tuesday 6th to Tuesday 20th January 2026 inclusive**. This means that students will only attend school for each of their examinations; when they are not due to sit an exam, we will expect them to go off-site to study. Please note that study leave is a privilege, and if any students choose not to follow instructions around the examination arrangements, then we may decide to keep them in school.

We are offering the advice to students below, for how best to organise their time during study leave. We would be grateful if parents/carers could reinforce the key messages. Study leave is not extra holiday time! We recommend that students establish a similar structure to a normal working school day:

- Keep to usual weekday waking and sleeping times.
- Work in 'lessons/periods' i.e. focus on one subject or topic for an agreed time, take a break and then swap subjects or topics.
- Work with a study partner if this is beneficial to both of you but keep any socialising to agreed breaks.
- Do not access social media during 'school hours.'

If any parent/carer does not want a child to have study leave and would prefer for them to undertake independent revision in school, then please contact us to arrange this. Students will then be required to sign in at reception and will be allocated a classroom. **If parents/carers ask us to supervise students at school, we will take this responsibility to supervise their attendance very seriously and will expect them to register for every session just like a normal school day.**

Please note that study leave will have an impact on attendance records for the Spring term, as we can only record attendance if a student is in school. This is not a problem and nothing for you to worry about. On the days/sessions students do not have an exam, this will be recorded as an authorised absence for Mock Exam study leave. **All students must return to school on Wednesday 21st January for timetabled lessons.**

How Can Parents/Carers Support?

All students are expected to be in school for all their scheduled examinations. Please could parents/carers support by **ensuring all non-emergency appointments are rescheduled outside of school hours or after the examination period has ended**. We hope all students will be able to attend all exams on their schedule, as they will have a truer exam experience if they sit the exam with all their peers. **Students must not be late – it can have a detrimental impact on their psychological readiness for the examination.**

We would like to remind you that students should be in full school uniform for all exams.

Mock exams are vital preparation for the real exams next summer, and adequate revision now will certainly help to smooth the path of academic success over the next few months. It is very difficult to give generic advice to the whole year group about how hard to work in preparation for these assessments; some students have a tendency to under-prepare (which can cause anxiety in itself), and some students have a tendency to work too hard. The best message is to plan set times for revision and set times for rest; when revising, ensure it is effective and free from distractions; when resting, ensure your mind is truly switched off from revision. Balance is vital over this period of revision and exams. We recommend a couple of websites and publications that parents/carers might find useful to support with **helping students prepare for these exams**.

- The mental health charity, Mind, have lots of helpful advice and support on their website <https://www.mind.org.uk/>. They also publish lots of booklets, one of which is 'How to manage stress'; this may be of interest as it helps people understand what stress and anxiety are, along with the physical symptoms and coping strategies.
- FutureLink publish a booklet 'GCSEs: What can a parent do?' available for purchase on their website <http://futurelinkpublishing.co.uk>.
- 'Ace That Test: A Student's Guide to Learning Better' by Megan Sumeracki, Cynthia Nebel, Caroline Kuepper-Tetzel and Althea Need Kaminske, is an evidence-informed approach to effective revision strategies, and how to avoid less time-efficient strategies. There is an October sale at Routledge [here](#).

We are delivering strategies on how to manage anxieties to all Year 11 students throughout the year, however in the meantime please discuss at home the importance of a school/life balance. Mental wellbeing is very important for all. There is no need for any student to be revising for hours every night for these exams. They are an opportunity for students to gain an understanding of their subject knowledge and where they are currently with their learning. The results will allow them to celebrate what they know already and help teachers identify areas for future development in the May/June exams series or their GCSE courses.

With this communication we provide the exam timetable from Mrs. Cunningham, our Examinations Officer. **Please kindly take the time to go through this communication and the Year 11 Assessment Timetables at home, so students fully understand the arrangements and are in a position to have a positive exam experience.** Mrs. To will be in contact with students who have an access arrangement in due course. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,

Miss E Pritchard and Mr Robson

Deputy Headteacher | Head of Learning Year 11