



January 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

## Re: GCSE Mock Exam results

As you are aware, Year 11 students will receive their mock exam results during period 5 on Monday 21st January. Instead of simply being handed the results of their mock exams, the students will experience what the real GCSE results day will feel like, opening an envelope and seeing all their results in one place. The mock results day will mark the starting point for the final approach to the summer examinations and our aim now is to build on students' success so far in order that they achieve their full potential in the final exams.

There will inevitably be some tension, nervous energy and excitement, but nobody needs to worry too much; there will be advice, support and guidance before and after opening their envelopes and, over the following weeks, the Senior Leadership Team and subject teachers will be able to spend time reflecting on and discussing results with students. The Sixth Form team will also be on hand to discuss post-16 options.

Mock examinations are very important; they provide our students with the opportunity to practise revision strategies and techniques, and highlight areas that they need to focus on in order to further improve. The information yielded from analysis of the question papers will be used to develop targeted intervention and revision between now and the final exams, as well as the next set of core mock examinations in March. For both students and teachers, these results provides clarity about the next steps forward. Mock results day will also be an opportunity to celebrate progress made by many students towards achieving and exceeding their targets at this key point in their journey.

Following the mock exam results, students will receive their Progress Report 2 during registration on Tues 22nd January. Please contact individual subject teachers with any queries or Mr T Scott, Head of Y11, if you have concerns about multiple subjects. This progress report will provide you with an emerging grade for each subject, which is an indication of the grade teachers feel students are most likely to achieve in the summer, if they continue to work as they are doing. Using this information together with their mock results, students should be devising their own revision programmes for the rest of the year. Students will still be receiving homework from subject teachers in the run up to the exams and this has to come first, but we would be expecting students to be completing at least a couple of hours a night revision including the homework and more at weekend. I'd also like to take this opportunity to say something about private tutors. Whilst we do recognise that tutors can be helpful in some cases, we do also urge caution. Often students tell us that 'it's ok, I've got a tutor for that subject' and give the impression that this therefore means they do not need to do any other revision. In most cases, it is not a tutor that is needed, but rather the student just needs to spend more time on their own ensuring that they are making the relevant information stick in

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their minds – and teachers can help where it is genuinely a question of not understanding a topic.

In order to support students on their journey to the final exams, not only does January 21st mark the mock results day, it also marks the launch of our '50 days to Amaze!' Between January 21st and the Easter holidays, there are just 50 school days left. Following the Easter holidays, there will be just 13 school days before the start of the external exams on the 13th May 2019. The '50 days to Amaze' will be a high profile, supportive countdown that will enable students to pick up top tips and support, as well as reward points (and we all know what points mean... prizes!) I hope that your child will come home following the mock results day positive about how they are going to 'amaze' in the run up to the exams and what they are going to do to get the best possible grades they deserve.

Thank you for your continued support. I am very much looking forward to working with Year 11, ensuring they are working hard and making it stick in preparation for the summer exams.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "H. Ryles-Dean". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Mrs H. Ryles-Dean  
Assistant Headteacher – Raising Achievement & Aspiration