

24th August 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope that you have had a safe and restful summer.

As we enter the next phase of the safe reopening of our school I am delighted to be welcoming back our new Year 11 cohort in September. Throughout these challenging circumstances, our pupils have consistently demonstrated outstanding effort and resilience during their remote learning and face-to-face lessons. As Raising Standards Leader for Year 11, I eagerly await the return of our pupils and look forward to guiding them on their first steps of the Year 11 journey.

We now enter the most important period of your son/daughter's education and I would like to reassure you that much preparation has already taken place to ensure that results day 2021 will be a celebration of outstanding academic success. As part of this, I am pleased to share with you details of the first set of mock exams which will take place between the following dates: **Monday 14th September to Thursday 24th September.**

On the following page please find a two-week overview of when subject exams will take place. Please note, if pupils do not have an exam during a specific period (i.e they do not study the subject) they will be in their normal timetabled lessons. Pupils will also be provided with their own individual exam timetable.

To accelerate the progress of our pupils, these exams will be fundamental in assessing existing knowledge within every subject enabling staff to address any gaps in understanding that may have occurred during school closure. This will enable us to refine and adapt our curriculum to meet the needs of every pupil with precision. It will also be a fantastic opportunity for pupils to experience a full suite of exams in formal exam conditions.

To prepare for these exams, specific subject information will be shared with pupils during their first lessons back with their teachers. This will also include subject-specific revision strategies that will support pupils during the exams. However, revision should commence immediately using the dedicated Year 11 revision resources that are available on our school website. They can be accessed by clicking on the 'Year 11 Revision' button on the DEC homepage and selecting the subject. Alternatively, please open the following link: <https://www.decschool.co.uk/year-11-revision/>

FAQs

1. Why are we sending this out during the summer holidays?

Due to the extended disruption, we are conducting the first round of Year 11 mock exams slightly earlier than usual. The attached schedule will provide pupils with an understanding of how the weeks will be structured and which subjects will be covered. This early notice will enable pupils to begin to prepare for these exams prior to returning in September. This may simply be pupils re-acquainting themselves with the subject content that they have covered so far in their course. Please see the link above for more information on each subject.



2. Why are we conducting the first round of Year 11 mock exams earlier than usual?

These exams will be a very important diagnostic tool for subject teachers who will then be able to assess the current working knowledge of our pupils. With such unique circumstances, where pupils have not been in school full-time for an extended period of time, the early identification of knowledge gaps will be instrumental in our ability to implement the very best curriculum for your child.

3. How will this benefit my child?

Experiencing these mock exams early in the year will enable subject leaders to provide excellent individually-tailored support for our pupils as early as possible. This will include providing detailed feedback following the exams that will enable pupils to understand their strengths and areas for improvement. Additionally, following these exams there will be an excellent support package that will provide pupils with the resources and methods for addressing any areas for improvement they may have. Over time, this early acceleration of learning will alleviate stress and anxiety across their final year of key stage 4 study and provide an excellent platform for a calm and measured exam season in May 2021.

4. What types of preparation should my child do prior to their return to school?

As mentioned previously, each pupil will be provided with a full personalised exam timetable on their return to school. They will also receive subject-specific guidance detailing which elements of the subject they should dedicate their revision time to. Prior to this, pupils should be refamiliarising themselves with the course content of which they have already covered up to this point. Self-quizzing is a fantastic way to do this and more information on how to revise in each subject can be found here:

<https://www.decschool.co.uk/year-11-revision/>

5. As a parent, how can I support my child through these mock exams and in future exams?

There are many ways that you can support your child throughout Year 11, in preparation for and during exams. For more information on ways to do this please open the link below:

<https://www.decschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Matrix-Exams-Help.pdf>

Finally, if you are studying GCSE Design & Technology you will be required to purchase an A4 sketchbook in preparation for your lessons. If you require more information regarding this, please email Mr Nines (r.nines@decschool.co.uk)

Once again, I look forward to welcoming Year 11 back very soon. Until then, if you have any questions, queries or would like to discuss any element of the above, then please do not hesitate to email j.smith@decschool.co.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J. Smith
Assistant Headteacher

Mr M. Dunn
Head Teacher

MOCK EXAM TIMETABLE

September 2020



Week 1

Date	AM (9.10am start)	PM (01:00pm start)
Monday 14th September 2020	GCSE History Paper 1 (Democracy and Dictatorship) – 2 hours (84)	GCSE English Literature Paper 1 (Shakespeare and the 19 th -Century Novel) – 1 hour 45 minutes (125)
Tuesday 15th September 2020	GCSE Psychology Paper 1 (Studies & Applications in Psychology 1) – 1 hour 30 minutes (30)	GCSE Maths Paper 1 (Non-calculator) – 1 hour 30 minutes (116)
Wednesday 16th September 2020	GCSE Computer Science Paper 2 (Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming)– 1 hour 30 minutes (12)	GCSE Maths Paper 2 (Calculator) – 1 hour 30 minutes (116)
Thursday 17th September 2020	8:40 start GCSE English Literature Paper 2 (Modern Texts and Poetry) – 2 hours and 5 minutes (125)	GCSE History Paper 2 (Health and the People) 1 hour (84)
Friday 18th September 2020	GCSE Maths Paper 3 (Calculator) - 1 hour 30 minutes (116)	GCSE Psychology Paper 2 (Studies & Applications in Psychology 2) – 45 Minutes (30)

Number of students in brackets

MOCK EXAM TIMETABLE

September 2020



Week 2

Date	AM (9.10am start)	PM (01:00pm start)
Monday 21st September 2020	GCSE German Listening – 45 minutes (45)	GCSE Design Technology – 2 hours (30)
Tuesday 22nd September 2020	GCSE Geography Paper 2 (Living with the Physical Environment) – 1 hour 30 minutes (35)	GCSE German Writing – 1 hour 20 minutes (45) GCSE Spanish Writing – 1 hour 10 minutes (33)
Wednesday 23rd September 2020	GCSE Business – 1 hours 30 minutes (22)	GCSE PE (Fitness & Body Systems) – 1 hour 45 minutes – (23)
Thursday 24th September 2020	GCSE Computing Paper 1 (Computer Systems) – 1 hour 30 minutes (12) GCSE Geography Paper 1 (Challenges in the Human Environment) - 1 hour (35)	BTEC Health & Social Care – 45 minutes (19)
Friday 25th September 2020		

Number of students in brackets