

12 January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers and year 13 students,

Mock exams - Year 13

Your son/daughter should now have received their year 13 mock timetable. Exams begin on the 29 January and last for two weeks until 9 February. When students are not in exams, they will be on study leave unless a subject teacher has specifically asked them to come in to work with them, this is only the case for some vocational courses, art based subjects and a very few other subjects. If students are unsure whether lessons in particular subjects are running then they must check with their teachers. Our expectation is that students are at home between exams, revising and preparing themselves physically and mentally for the exams ahead.

The timetable includes seat numbers, candidate numbers and venues; it is helpful for students to know this information in advance and please be aware that the venues and seat numbers may differ from one exam to the next. If students think there is an error with their timetable or the exams that they are entered for, they should contact their form tutor in the first instance or speak to a member of the Sixth Form team.

Access Arrangements

The mock exams are organised to give students an experience that replicates their final exams as closely as possible. Therefore, most exams will be sat in exam venues, not classrooms and they will be full exam papers. Students who qualify for access arrangements in their final exams will have this provision during the mock exams.

While we use our best endeavours to accommodate students, unless your son/daughter has "smaller venue" as a specific access arrangement, they will be seated in the School Hall or Sports Hall. It may be that your child has sat in a smaller venue in the past, but this does not necessarily mean it is part of their access arrangements (unless they have been told this directly). If you believe that your child requires access to a smaller venue for a medical or mental health condition (which is supported by specialist evidence from CAMHS, a HCPC registered psychologist, a medical consultant or a psychiatrist), please contact the Sixth Form Team (sixthformoffice@theweald.org.uk) who will be able to advise you on the process required to request this.

Afternoon exams

Please note that some exams finish later than 3.05pm. On Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, if your son/daughter's exam finishes after the school buses depart, they may get the late bus home at 4.20pm. For a small number of students, they will have exams that finish later than 3.05pm on a Monday or Friday and there are no late buses provided. In a few cases where students have been awarded extra time in exams, exams might finish after 4.20pm. Please check your son/daughter's exam timetable with them and ensure students have made their own arrangements for transport home on these days, if needed.

Equipment

Students need to ensure that they have the correct equipment for their exams and this needs to be kept in a clear pencil case. **We cannot guarantee that equipment will be available to borrow.** I have provided a short equipment list below and these will cover the main exams. Further equipment may be needed for art and technology subjects and subject teachers will communicate this information to students.

Exams equipment list:

- 2 black ball-point pens
- 2 pencils (and a sharpener)
- An eraser
- A ruler
- A scientific calculator

Students may bring a drink in, this needs to be in a clear bottle, with no labels.

Exams pressure

We understand that the mock exams can be very daunting and difficult for many students. Prior planning and preparation, organisation and openness to support are three ways for students to feel in control of these exams. If your son/daughter finds that they need help with any of these things, please encourage them to get in touch with form tutors (for general advice), teaching staff (for subject specific support) or a member of the Sixth Form team.

Mock Exams Results Day

Results day for Year 13 mock exams is **Friday 8 March 2024**. Again, this is designed to replicate the experience that students will have following their final exams when they collect their final A-level results. I hope this letter clarifies arrangements for the mock exam period. If you have any questions please contact subject staff or the Sixth Form team as appropriate.

I wish year 13 students all the very best for their mock exams.

Yours Faithfully,



Ms T. Day
Head of 6th Form/Assistant Headteacher