



Our ref: DHH/set/office/year11/mockexams

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

## Your child's next steps – Preparing for exams and post-16 choices

As we enter the next half-term for Year 11, we thought it prudent to share some key messages that students have received and to signpost the resources that you should be familiar with at home.

### **Mock Exams – w/c November 20<sup>th</sup> and November 27<sup>th</sup> 2023**

In November, we host our formal mock exam period, which will give students a chance to; remind themselves of how to prepare for examination periods, to develop their independent study habits in preparation for exams, and to carry out the improvements that they have considered following the Year 10 mock exams (June 2023).

The timetable for the November mock exams can be found here – [Mock Exams](#) and was also sent by Mr Steel on Weds, 11<sup>th</sup> October. Students can find this on Satchel One (Mr Harness' assignment set for 9<sup>th</sup> October).

### **Exam discipline**

Below is a list of expectations that we have for students during these mock exams. It cannot be understated how important it is to follow protocol. Infringement of some of these rules, within a real exam could result in disqualification from that exam and possibly the entire course. There is nothing worse than seeing two years of effort wiped away in a momentary lapse in concentration.

### **Exam Expectations 2023/2024**

- No mobile phones or watches in the exam room.
- No notes or revision on your person
- Only water in clear bottles without labels are allowed in the exam room.
- Silence as soon as you enter the exam room, until you have left the room.
- Face forward, do not turn around or communicate with other students.
- No writing on hands.
- Please bring all the correct equipment in a clear pencil case.
- Do not bring stationery products with writing on, such as Tippex.
- No toilet breaks for first and last 15 minutes of exams. Unless medical or emergency.
- Any queries raise your hand, and an invigilator will come to you.
- Be considerate to others, try to make as little noise as you can when leaving the exam room
- Students must wear full and correct school uniform to all examinations

Students are asked to arrive before the exam, so that they have time to sort their resources and deposit prohibited items in lockers.



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## How can my child create a Revision Plan?

Mr Harness posted a fantastic set of resources which aimed to help students develop their independent study plan – not only in preparation for their mocks, but also for the year ahead. There is a really good Excel based template that worked well last year, plus an instructional video. This can be found on every student's Satchel One 'To Do list' and is best viewed in 'calendar view'. The assignment was posted on 9<sup>th</sup> October.

## What should your child revise?

All students and parents should be regularly checking Satchel One. If your child opens their Satchel One account and searches through their 'To Do List', they will see clear topic lists and helpful resources, which are specifically aimed to support with the independent study required to succeed in the mock exams. These are best viewed in 'calendar' view and your child may need to look ahead a few weeks to find the resources set by teachers. In addition, many teachers also handed out resources and plans during the recent Parents evening.

## What can students expect next half term?

### Personal Learning Checklists

These are available online now and are a great starting point for revision. They allow each child to consider what they already know and highlight what they do not. Students are encouraged to revise what they don't know, first. [Click here](#) to access them

### Subject Support Timetable

Time spent with a Teacher is incredibly valuable and we will share our provision for Subject support, which should form part of every student's revision plan. Naturally, each student is able to contact their class Teacher privately, should they wish to ask for support, however these sessions could serve as the ideal opportunity for students to have their questions addressed. This will be launched in w/c 30<sup>th</sup> October.

### Re-learning the knowledge

Students are often very good at diagnosing what they don't know and then find tests to measure their understanding. However, where do you find the knowledge, when you wish to re-learn it? We will be reminding them of the following, continuously.

- Make sure they attend every lesson, every day. Lessons will often link back to previous content, which strengthens understanding. They will also cover exam preparation during lessons.
- Revision guides – highlighted by subject teachers, certain CGP guides, or internally produced booklets and resources are often distributed, or recommended by your child's teachers.
- Online platforms
  - GCSEPod – covers the knowledge and offers testing for almost every subject. Students have a Hayes account.
  - YouTube videos – Cognito (Maths/Sciences), or Bizconsesh (Business) offer useful, short relevant videos.
  - Online platforms like Seneca, Educake and SPARX, offer both the ability to address knowledge gaps and testing their grasp of knowledge. Hayes students have free access to Educake (Science) and SPARX (Maths).
- Their exercise books. Over time, their exercise books should become incredible resources that not only capture the knowledge, but also show previous feedback and how they could improve their exam technique.



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## **Careers Week and Next steps**

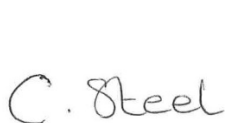
This week, Year 11 students were able to access Unifrog and UCAS and they were asked to consider their subject choices. This is relevant regardless of whether their next step be at Hayes Sixth form, or college. We encourage you to visit these resources with your child, as having that goal is a crucial part of keeping motivated and feeling happy over Year 11.

- Access Unifrog with your child: <https://www.unifrog.org/sign-in>
- A [video showing](#) how UCAS could be useful in determining their Post-16 decisions.

As a reminder, don't forget that we have our 6<sup>th</sup> Form Open Evening on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> November.

Finally, we also understand that any form of examination can be an anxious time for students and whilst all this support is designed to help students manage the 'real thing' in summer 2024, there will be times when they need support in managing their anxiety. Please don't hesitate to contact your child's Tutor if you have any concerns.

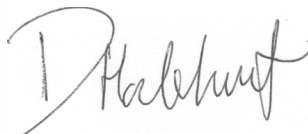
Kindest regards,



Mr C Steel



Miss C Thompson



Mr D Hazlehurst



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