



6th November 2020

Important Information About Mock Examinations

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your ongoing support since we returned to school in September. Upon our return there were many new procedures which students and staff needed to get to grips with to ensure the continued safety of our community.

Throughout the first half term, the behaviour and attitude of Year 11 students was fantastic. We are immensely proud of the maturity they have shown and we are confident that this positive start will put them in good stead for the rest of the year.

Please read the information below regarding mock examinations.

As you are well aware, mock examinations start next week, commencing 9th November, and will last for 2 weeks, with a further week added for Art and Textiles exams. The mock examination timetable can be viewed on our website at www.lealands.luton.sch.uk/exams.

I am sure that all Year 11 students have been busy revising for these exams and I know that they will appreciate your support and encouragement with this. Staff have been working with students in lessons to prepare for these exams and setting extended learning to support them in their revision. Please see your child's planner page on their epraise account for details of extended learning from each subject and check that they are completing all the necessary tasks.

Organising their time is going to be vital in ensuring that they can get themselves prepared whilst also giving time to relaxing and switching off. Please revisit the videos posted by Mr Mason and myself on 16th October regarding more advice in supporting your child through examination revision at home at <https://www.lealands.luton.sch.uk/letters>.

Key information:

Sitting exams:

- As you can see on the mock examination timetable, due to Covid19 restrictions, students will sit a majority of their exams in a classroom setting. This is regretful, as it is ideal for students to experience sitting exams in an exam hall environment. However, social distancing would be impossible in this instance. There are some instances where one side of the year group are able to sit exams in the sports hall. In the February mock sessions, this opportunity will be given to the other side of the year group.
- Exam regulations will still be in place for these mock examinations, with staff invigilators.

- Students will be collected from their bubble social space before an exam and escorted to their classroom/hall. They will be expected to be silent from this moment and enter their classroom in exam conditions and settle in their allocated seats quickly.
- In line with school policy, face coverings must be worn when entering and leaving the room, but can be removed and placed in a clear sealable plastic bag once seated for the duration of the exam.
- We will not be collecting in mobile phones or smart watches in order to reduce contact between students and our invigilators. If these items are brought into school, then they must be turned off and left in the student's bag.
- Staff invigilating the exam will be able to move around the room wearing a face mask to ensure all exam regulations are being followed by all students.
- Students should ensure that they bring the correct equipment for each exam, including specialist equipment when needed, such as scientific calculators. It is important to reduce the amount of contact between students and invigilators when having to hand out additional equipment.

Attendance during this period is really important to ensure that we gain a full set of results and students should only be absent if absolutely necessary. If they cannot come into school, please inform the attendance team at the earliest convenience.

It may be necessary for a student to be absent from school during the mock examination period to self-isolate in-line with government guidance. As this can not be helped, we feel that students should still have access to their mock exams if this is the case.

It is important to us to provide equality of access for any student who has to self isolate as a result of contact or family members and not because they are themselves ill. We also wish to reduce the disruption of learning for these students and ensure that they have an opportunity to complete mock examinations without missing out on learning opportunities in order to complete their mock examinations upon their return. As we cannot be sure how much disruption there will be in future weeks, we can't be sure there will be another opportunity for them to do mocks.

If it is required for your child to self isolate, please contact the school absence line as soon as possible to register their absence.

I will then contact you regarding sending mock examinations home for completion. I will accompany these with a guidance loom video explaining the process. This will include a request that you as parents do all you can do to ensure that these exams are taken under exam condition.

It is important to note that this provision is only in place for students self isolating for Covid19 purposes following governmental guidelines, and not for any other absence. Other absences will be covered using 'mop up' sessions to give students time to complete the exams in school.

We hope that further opportunities for students to complete exam practice in full exam conditions will be possible in the future, but feel that this round of mock examinations will still prove vital in their preparation for summer examination.

We are aware of the increased pressure students are feeling ahead of the mock examinations due to their importance in awarding Centre Assessed Grades last summer. As you are probably aware, the Government say that GCSE examinations will go ahead in the Summer, but like most schools, we wish to be prepared for any changes in the future.

Whilst these mock examinations are incredibly important in highlighting strengths and areas of weakness to develop, we do not wish for students to let that pressure impact on their ability to succeed. They will be taken as part of a wider picture including previous assessment data, class work and also our knowledge of each student's attitude to learning in the coming months to decide any prediction of final grade, whether that be for submission as part of further education applications or as Centre Assessed Grades.

All we can ask is that each and every one of them prepares well and tries their very best. We look forward to a positive term and wish all of Year 11 good luck in their mock exams. As ever, if you do have any questions, then please get in touch with the Year 11 team.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. White', written in a cursive style.

Mr White
Head of Year 11

