



**Ormiston Victory Academy**

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Dear Parents/Carers,

In order to prepare your child for their GCSE exams at the end of Year 11, all Year 11 students will be sitting a full set of mock exams in November (w/c 11<sup>th</sup>). We have found that getting students to complete a set of formal mock exams allows them to get used to the routines and pressures which the summer exams will bring, easing some of the pressure on students and allowing them to feel more comfortable with the examination process. It is also a chance for teachers to identify any gaps in knowledge, in order to set appropriate interventions and to support students in the best way possible.

I have attached the mock timetable which indicates the date and time for each of the exams. Like with the Year 10 mock exams that your child sat, students will have their own specific seat in the room, in which they will sit their exams. This information will be shared with students after October half term, so they are fully aware of where they need to go and sit, as well as being reminded of the process and expectations of sitting their exams. Students will only sit mock exams in subjects which they are studying as part of their curriculum. If students do not study the subject for which there is an exam for (on a specific day/time) - then they will just attend their normal timetabled lesson.

Before each morning exam, students will have an exam 'booster' in which they will spend around 20 minutes with their subject teacher for some final preparation for the paper they are about to sit. These boosters aim to help calm students before the exam starts, as well as providing some final reminders about how students should approach the exam paper. Students from previous years, and the feedback gained by students following the mock exams in Year 10, always mention how helpful they found the exam boosters in preparing them for examinations.

In addition to exam boosters, exam breakfasts will again be provided for all students. Students are encouraged to come into school early (we suggest 8:00am), to complete some final revision with subject teachers being on hand to answer any questions that students may have before the exam. Toast, fruit juice, tea and coffee will be provided for students during breakfast sessions, to ensure that students are feeling fully ready to sit their exam. Students must be in school and registered by 8.30am on mock exam days.

The structure & timings of the mock exams will be the same as what your child will follow in their final summer GCSE exams. Morning exams will start around 9am and afternoon exams will start around 1pm. This gives students Period 3 to recover if they have two exams in one day. For students who have an afternoon exam, they will go on early school lunch at 12.25pm before starting their exam at 1pm. Students without an afternoon exam, will continue to follow their normal school day – which includes attending their normal timetabled lessons and the later school lunch time at 1.25pm).

The period 6 lessons (3pm – 3.45pm) will not run during the two weeks of mock exams (11<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> November) to ensure that students get the rest and recovery time that they need. Students are more than welcome to use the VIP after school each day to undertake additional revision/study before they go home. Period 6 lessons will start again for all year 11 students on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November.

## Revision for Mock Exams and Post Exam Feedback/Next Steps

Students are expected to revise for their mock exams which will be used to inform your child's GCSE predicted grades on their next report in December. We recommend using the booklets for the mock exams to revise the **starting 5** topics from each subject area before the first paper. All students will be given a copy of this, and they can also download electronic copies from class charts. Alongside the starting 5, each subject has produced detailed information about their courses and additional places to find information to revise from.

Another tool that subjects find value for revising completing past papers and then revising questions/topics that students are less confident on which is proven to have a positive impact on students' outcomes. Our other expectation is that students try their best during their mock – like they will do during their final examinations in the summer. This is vitally important in order to identify areas/topics/skills that your child requires additional support with in the coming weeks. Subjects will use this information to produce personalised feedback (Victory HEAT folders) for students so they can use this to start preparing for their final GCSE's. Any students that do not attempt their mock exams to the best of their ability will be expected to resit the exam at an alternative time.

It is also essential that we have your support in ensuring that your child attends school to sit their mock exams unless they are too ill to do so.

In addition to the revision resources and information provided by all subjects (in the revision guidance booklet that your child received), students also have access to Dr Frost (Maths), Seneca (Science & English) and GCSEPOD which is an electronic platform with key topics for every subject area.

Please feel free to email any specific questions you may have to our core subject leads and SLT links using the email addresses below:

English (curriculum leader) – [r.dixon@ormistonvictoryacademy.co.uk](mailto:r.dixon@ormistonvictoryacademy.co.uk)

English (SLT link) - [r.cole@ormistonvictoryacademy.co.uk](mailto:r.cole@ormistonvictoryacademy.co.uk)

Maths (curriculum leader) – [z.bradshaw@ormistonvictoryacademy.co.uk](mailto:z.bradshaw@ormistonvictoryacademy.co.uk)

Maths (SLT link) - [a.hazell@ormistonvictoryacademy.co.uk](mailto:a.hazell@ormistonvictoryacademy.co.uk)

Science - [j.kendrick-eriksen@ormistonvictoryacademy.co.uk](mailto:j.kendrick-eriksen@ormistonvictoryacademy.co.uk)

If you have any other queries or concerns, please contact myself, Mr Willis on:

[o.willis@ormistonvictoryacademy.co.uk](mailto:o.willis@ormistonvictoryacademy.co.uk)

Kind regards



Assistant Principal for Student Outcomes