

21st October 2022

Dear Parent / Carer,

Grades for Post-16 Applications

We are aware that a large number of Post-16 providers have now opened applications for courses starting in September 2023. Many of these applications request predicted grades, which can be problematic at this time of the year: few subjects will have covered all course content, and there has only been one assessment window since September.

At least one provider has confirmed with the school directly that an accurate predicted grade is 'super helpful' but they accept that the school 'may not have the predicted grades at that point so don't worry too much.'

We have taken the decision to not provide predicted grades at this very early stage; it would be unrealistic and unfair to base predictions on assessments from the end of Year 10. Instead, staff have considered where students may exceed their Minimum Expected Grade (MEG) and provided an Aspirational Grade where appropriate. Where both are present, the higher of the two grades should be used for applications.

It is very important to note that MEGs are not predictions: they are a measure of the minimum that a student should be capable of based on their KS2 outcomes. For a realistic assessment of your child's current performance, please refer to their end of Year 10 report.

We will be releasing fresh data for Year 11, including predictions, current grades and aspirational grades, on the 13th January 2023. This will be informed by data collected in this half term's assessments, assessments in class at the end of next half term, and the November mock exam week.

November GCSE Mocks information

Please find attached the timetable for the forthcoming mock examinations, starting 28th November.

It is our intention to offer students an experience of examination, rather than to complete a full series of assessments in the hall at this time. This means that there will be additional end of term assessments taking place in the usual manner in classrooms, with select subject areas choosing to run specific papers in full exam conditions.


In recent years, it has become commonplace for schools to run extensive mock exams to collect data for Teacher Assessed Grades as a contingency measure for interrupted exams. This is not the case this year, and it is important to ensure that our actions are in the best interests of students.

The purpose of running assessments in exam conditions is to provide a 'dress rehearsal' of the real exam, including access arrangements, invigilation, seating and all JCQ expectations around behaviour. We are limiting this to (roughly) one week to reduce the impact this has upon curriculum time and student wellbeing.

Students should bring the following items to exams:

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| For all exams | Black pen, ruler, an eraser in a clear pencil case or bag |
| Maths & Science exams | Calculator for Paper 1, a protractor, a pair of compasses |

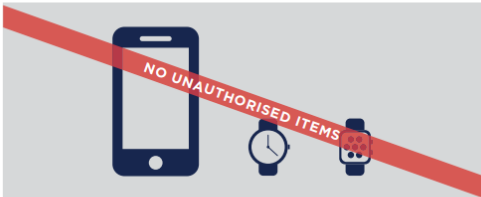
Please read through and discuss these two posters issued by the JCQ, who are the official body representing the eight exam boards in the UK and decide the rules for all public examinations. These rules will be in effect for all mock exams.



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**NO MOBILE PHONES
NO WATCHES**

NO POTENTIAL TECHNOLOGICAL/WEB
ENABLED SOURCES OF INFORMATION




Possession of unauthorised items, such as a mobile phone or any watch, is a serious offence and could result in

DISQUALIFICATION

from your examination and your overall qualification.

This poster must be displayed in a prominent place outside each examination room.

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Warning to Candidates

1. You **must** be on time for all your examinations.
2. **Possession of a mobile phone** or other unauthorised material **is not allowed** even if you do not intend to use it. You will be subject to penalty and possible disqualification from the exam/qualification.
3. You **must not** talk to, attempt to communicate with or disturb other candidates once you have entered the examination room.
4. You **must** follow the instructions of the invigilator.
5. You **must not** sit an examination in the name of another candidate.
6. You **must not** become involved in any unfair or dishonest practice in any part of the examination.
7. If you are confused about anything, only speak to an invigilator.

The *Warning to Candidates* must be displayed in a prominent place outside each examination room. This may be a hard copy A3 paper version or an image of the poster projected onto a wall or screen for all candidates to see.

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I would advise students to speak to subject leads about appropriate topics to revise for these exams, and tools such as EduCake that can support them with this. As always, GCSEPod remains our primary platform for digital revision in school and should be actively encouraged as a 'one stop shop' for most subjects.

If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Mr K Newstead
Assistant Headteacher