



22nd November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: Year 10 mock examinations

I would like to take the opportunity to outline some of the key dates over the next few weeks and give you a flavour of our expectations and the support we will provide in the run up to your child's first mock examinations in January 2022.

As I am sure we are all aware it is increasingly competitive in the world of further education and employment. For children leaving school it is vital that they are equipped with the knowledge and skills that will make them successful, but also that they have a broad suite of qualifications achieved at grades that reflect their ability. We also need to ensure that we provide them with effective guidance around their career aspirations.

Year 10 are coming up to their first big mock GCSE examinations and they are incredibly challenging. More than ever these examinations are based on knowledge retention and recall of that knowledge. In just English, Maths and Science your child will sit 13 formal examinations. That is without any of their option subjects.

The best way we can help them through this is to ensure that they are adequately prepared. Over the next few weeks we will be preparing them for their first year 10 mock examinations which commence on the 10th January 2022. I delivered an assembly on Friday 19th November that focused on the revision strategies that have been proven to have the greatest impact on exam success. This and other revision tips can be viewed on our website via this link: <http://www.darwenvale.com/revision> . Year 10 students should be revising for these exams now. We will be delivering further assemblies this half term on revision strategies in English, Maths and Science. Over the course of the next 18 months, intervention sessions during PE and Saturday classes to support students will be continuing and your support with that would help greatly.

Students are being given revision materials by their teachers, such as past exam papers and revision notes and all students are encouraged to be starting to revise now for at least one extra hour a day. This revision could include homework that class teachers have set. Research has proven that short, focussed bursts of revision (e.g. a 30-minute session per subject) are much more effective than revising one subject for an hour or more. Revision also needs to be exercising the brain so techniques such as reading notes is not effective – for content to be remembered it needs the human brain needs to do something.

There are revision materials which you can provide to support your child's learning – most of these are available for free via the link above on our website. If you wanted to purchase any of the materials for your child to use exclusively at home, you can do so via the school gateway or by downloading the order form from our website. If you have any questions about which revision materials to purchase, or if you are unable to financial purchase these materials please contact me.

These mock examinations will provide us with a baseline of where year 10 are now. What would they get if they sat the exam now? What can they do and what can they not? Following the mocks, we will share this data with students and parents. You will receive a QLA (Question level analysis)

for each subject that shows clearly for each question in each paper what mark they scored. This will enable you to support your child over the coming weeks and months.

We will be holding our first Year 10 parents evening on **1st February 2022 5pm till 7pm**. The purpose of this evening will be to provide you with accurate and regular feedback about progress and resources and guidance on preparing for the examinations.

Please do not hesitate to contact myself, Mrs McKenna or Mrs Belham should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs R Cull
Vice Principal