



Ref: U:\HOY\11\Mock Exams
October 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian,

YEAR 11 MOCK EXAMINATIONS AND SIXTH FORM OPTIONS EVENING

The Year 11 Mock Examinations will take place between Monday 5 and Friday 9 December. These examinations are an important stage in preparing your son for his final examinations and he must prepare himself thoroughly. The results will provide pupils, teachers and their families, with essential information about strengths and areas for development so that they can be addressed over the coming months. Full attendance is expected across the period of Mock Examinations. There will be no study leave and pupils should attend School as normal from 8.45am and register in Form Rooms with their Tutor. When pupils are not in examinations they will be in normal lessons.

Pupils should be starting to revise their work independently and will also be preparing in class with their teachers. I have attached the timetable for the examination period and instructions to candidates published by JCQ the exams regulator. Some pupils struggle to grasp the importance of the Mock Examinations and past experience has shown that pupils who underperform in the Mock Examinations frequently receive disappointing results in the final GCSEs. Success will only be achieved if there has been a gradual and sustained approach to learning material. There are many distractions for pupils but genuine parental interest and support and a thorough revision plan will undoubtedly pay dividends and I would ask that you ensure your son uses his time wisely.

We shall run the examinations as though they are the actual GCSEs. The pupils will be made aware of how they should conduct themselves in an assembly on Friday 2 December. Any pupil who fails to behave in the correct manner will be dealt with as follows:

- His script will be removed and destroyed
- He will be required to repeat the examination in an after-school detention, lasting the full time of the examination
- Parents will be informed and made aware that any subsequent failure to follow the required system will result in an exclusion

I'm sure you appreciate it is important that we run these examinations in the correct manner in order to give everyone the opportunity for success.

Results will be published to parents during the week beginning 9 January and your son should be aware that the Mock Examinations will be an important measure when advising pupils of post-16 options. Predictions made to Examining Boards in February will also be based upon the evidence of these examinations.

There will be a series of events that will help prepare and guide your son in making the right post-16 choices. **There will be a Year 11 Options Evening on Thursday 17 November between 6.30pm and 8.30pm where we will issue the Sixth Form prospectus.** Please regard attendance at this evening as essential for your son's future success. I hope that it will put pupils in a position in which they will be able to make informed judgements of their own. The evening is intended to be of benefit to all members of Year 11 including those pupils who may be considering opportunities apart from the Sixth Form at King's. Please be aware that the evening starts at 5.30pm for those students who attend other local schools. King's students and parents should arrive for 6.30pm. Due to limited space in the School Hall, we ask that only one parent attends with their son.

During the week beginning Monday 28 November every Year 11 pupil will have an individual interview with a senior member of staff to discuss career aspirations and post-16 options. We shall expect that he will bring a completed Sixth Form application form with him to this meeting or information relating to external courses. The prospectus will have been distributed on 17 November and I hope this will allow plenty of time for discussion at home.

Once pupils have a provisional programme of study we shall pass the information to Subject Leaders to ask for their opinion on course viability. We shall organise an additional interview for any pupil who is deemed to be unsuitable for a subject. We must ensure that every pupil who intends on returning to the Sixth Form has a viable programme of study.

Pupils who wish to return to Sixth Form must reach the challenging entry expectations of 6 Bs at GCSE and at least a grade 5 (C) in Maths and English. Pupils must have a grade B or above in the subjects to be studied, although it would be desirable for a student to have an A in each subject they intend to study at A Level. We shall also look closely at the contribution each pupil has made to the school, and consider each pupil's behaviour record. Pupils must appreciate that the landscape is changing in the post-16 sector and they will undoubtedly have to be more competitive and industrious if they wish to gain places in highly competitive Sixth Forms. Increasingly too, Year 11 pupils are competing with external applicants who wish to take advantage of the benefits afforded by a Grammar School education. **No pupil must automatically assume they have an automatic right to transfer into the Sixth Form.**

The Year 11 Parents' Evening on Monday 27 February will offer an opportunity for you to come into school to discuss your son's progress. We expect pupils to sit alongside their parents and hear directly what needs to be done over the remaining few months.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish your son my best wishes in his Mock Examinations. If there are any questions relating to this letter that you would like to discuss in more detail please don't hesitate to contact me or Mr Hinchcliffe (Head of Year 11).

I would be grateful if you could return the reply slip by Monday 7 November to indicate that you have received the letter.

Yours sincerely



J A Dixon
Deputy Headmaster

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Return to: Form Tutor or email admin@kings.lincs.sch.uk by Monday 7 November 2016

YEAR ELEVEN MOCK EXAMINATIONS AND SIXTH FORM OPTIONS EVENING

Pupil's Name: Form:

- I confirm that I have received the letter on issues relating to Mock Examinations and Opportunities beyond GCSE []
- I expect to attend the Year 11 Options Evening on the 17 November with my son []

Parent's Signature: Date: