



Dear Parents and Carers of Year 11 students,

You will be aware of the media coverage surrounding GCSE and BTEC exams in Summer 2021 in England, as well as some of the decisions that have been made in Scotland and Wales.

We will do our best to keep you informed of all relevant updates as and when announcements are made. Most importantly, we want to reassure you that, whatever national decisions are made, our plans and arrangements will be made with your children's academic and emotional wellbeing in mind. We know that the uncertainties and changes can cause stress, but we are putting into place robust systems to ensure that all of our Year 11 students achieve results they can be proud of.

As you know, we have moved the mock exams to January to provide more preparation time. The timetable is enclosed within your child's progress report envelope and they also have their own copy. Within the mock period, there are also external exams for Sport and Health (if your child takes these as options).

All Year 11 students have had an assembly this week to run through the arrangements. Below are details that may be useful for parents and carers.

## Mock exam arrangements

- Dates: 12th January - 22nd January 2021
- Morning exams start at 9am, afternoon exams start at 1.15pm
- From Tuesday 12th January, students do not need to attend lessons outside of their exams
- If students have two exams in one day, they do need to stay in school and will have a timetable of revision lessons
- Students must continue to wear full school uniform and bring in all equipment for their exams

## Revision

Mock exam grades may be used as an indicator of students' achievements if nationally we revert to a system of Centre-Assessed Grades. It is therefore imperative that the results of the exams demonstrate the highest quality students are capable of. Throughout Year 11, we would expect all students to follow a revision timetable in addition to schoolwork and homework.



## To aspire, endeavour and thrive together

All Year 11 students will have a study skills workshop on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December. They should also be creating their own revision timetable to cover the subjects they will need to revise for their exams. Examples of timetables and guidance on revision strategies can be found here:

<https://www.glossopdale.derbyshire.sch.uk/-Students/Revision/>

### DfE Announcement December 2020 - latest updates

- More generous grading than usual, in line with results from summer 2020, so Y11 students are not disadvantaged
- Students to receive advance notice of some topic areas covered in exams to focus revision
- Exam aids eg. formula sheets, provided in some exams to cut down on the memorising required
- Additional "backup" exams - to be held in July - to give students a second chance to sit a paper if they have to miss main exams or assessments due to illness or self-isolation
- Only in extreme cases, where a student misses all their papers, a teacher-assessed grade will be given

If you have any questions about the mock exams or arrangements for Summer 2021, please contact Miss Jones, the Year 11 Progress Leader at [sjones@glossopdale.school](mailto:sjones@glossopdale.school) or Mrs Kane, Director of Student Progress at [skane@glossopdale.school](mailto:skane@glossopdale.school).

Kind regards,

The Year 11 Team