

Thursday 28th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Supporting Learning in Year 11: Mock Examinations, Monday 9th-Friday 20th October 2023

The Quest Academy believes that *Learning Changes Lives*. For Year 11, this means thoroughly preparing for their exams in the summer, with two key assessment points on the way. The first set of mock examinations begin on **Monday 9th October** and run for two weeks. The timetable is attached, do please take note of the approximate end times of the last exams of the day as these are sometimes beyond the end of the formal school day. Naturally, these timings may be different on the day, so they are just a guide.

To clarify the timetable, all students take Maths, Science, English and RS. The other subjects are their options. If your child is unsure about when their exams are, please direct them to their tutor or ACO first as they can highlight the timetable for them to show them when their exams are. Students are expected to be in school on time everyday. When they do not have an exam, they will either be in their normal lessons or be provided with a staffed revision room where they can prepare for their next exam.



This will be a period of stress for them, and it is a tiring process as they will sometimes have three exams a day. Hopefully it will be rewarding too as their hard work will pay off. The support you provide is essential:

- Encourage them to get to sleep at a reasonable hour.
- Try to get them to exercise as this is good for the brain!
- Encourage them to leave their phone on airplane mode while they revise.
- Check what they need to know for each subject (they should have topic lists or knowledge organisers)
- Remind them to revise in repeated small chunks rather than sitting for hours on one subject.
- Start with the difficult topics and subjects first: there is no point revising what they are already feel comfortable in their knowledge
- Ensure they have a revision planner
- Try to provide a quiet and calm working space for them
- Participate in their revision by quizzing them on something they have gone over.
- Demand 100% attendance during this period so they do not miss an exam. Also insist on perfect punctuality as they do not want to be stressed about not having enough time in an exam.
- Check Google Classroom with them: teachers are posting resources, tips and links to revision sites regularly so this is a good place to start when they are unsure.

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Executive Principal: Mr A. Crofts BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH, NPQEL

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It is helpful to focus students on what they aspire to do after their GCSEs. We strongly recommend that Quest 6 is the best place for the vast majority of our students, particularly those who aspire to take academic A-levels. Please do take a look at prospectus (which is available on the website) and discuss appropriate courses. In addition, **please attend the Q6 focused Open Evening next week (Tuesday 3rd October, 5-7pm) with your child to discuss their academic futures.**

Students should keep an eye out for extra help and intervention sessions, run before and after school – more to follow. Students should be aware of which exam board they are studying for each subject. It is worthwhile spending a little time exploring the specification, past papers and examiners' reports on the relevant exam board website. Again, this information is often shared on Google Classroom. Revision guides can help students to develop a real ownership of their learning. They are particularly useful when accompanied by a relevant workbook. This enables students to use them alongside their classroom lessons to consolidate learning and review areas they are less certain about. A good revision guide is specific to an exam board and should therefore contain all essential information. Contact the subjects directly if you would like further information.

This is obviously a crucial time for students in their school careers, and successful outcomes are best achieved when students are healthy, happy and enjoying learning. With the right support and guidance both in school and at home, we are excited to help students develop ownership of their learning to ensure successful outcomes.

You can discuss your child's progress and their mock exam results with their class teachers at the **Parents' Evening on Thursday 23rd November.** More information to follow. The second set of mocks will begin on Monday 22nd January 2024, and last two weeks. This will also be followed, again, by a Parents' Evening on Thursday 29th February. The formal public exams are drafted to begin in the week beginning Monday 13th May.

Many thanks for your support,



Mrs E. Dean
Deputy Principal