



Midhurst Rother College

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Part of United Learning

6 November 2024

Dear Parents / Carers

Year 11 Mock exams 2024

I am very impressed with the way Year 11 have returned to school following the half-term break. I tell them every week in assembly that they are a great year group – they really are. They have done lots of great work on exam papers over the holiday which will help them for the forthcoming mocks. MFL speaking exams have already started for our GCSE linguists and I have received very positive feedback from staff so far. Exams start in earnest next week and it is likely your son / daughter will have two exams each day. This is good preparation for the summer, where the schedule will be similar. I am confident this cohort will rise to the challenge.

All schools recently received guidance from the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) and I feel I should share the main points of this with you. JCQ has instructed schools to retain all mock exam papers securely following the exams. This measure is to ensure that, in the event of a local or national emergency (such as a lockdown), we would be able to provide your child with a grade, using the mock exams as a key piece of evidence. JCQ has indicated to schools that these exam papers could be used to assist with determining your child's final grade if such circumstances arise. As usual, all exam regulations will be followed as closely for internal exams as for the GCSEs next summer. It is absolutely essential that your son / daughter does their very best in these exams.

Attendance during this new half term ensures that students do not miss out on vital learning and assessment opportunities. The mock exams help students familiarise themselves with the format of each exam and practice good exam technique. Marking exams shows teachers of each subject where to focus future lesson planning to help students make further progress. Feedback and exam review after each paper will highlight the areas which they need to work on before the summer exams. Missing an exam leaves a student unsure of how they are progressing and deprives him/her of feedback on how to improve. Absence would, therefore, impact your child's readiness for the final GCSEs.

Please support your child with being well-equipped and arriving in good time for each exam. Each student's schedule is on their Arbor exams page. They were shown how to access this in assembly. Morning exams will begin at 8.45am, so punctuality to College each morning is vital. The school has no say as to whether a child will receive a grade should they miss an exam – this is for JCQ and the exam board to decide. Attending every exam is essential.

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On Tuesday 17 December the grades achieved will be shared with the students at our "Results afternoon". Opening their envelope next month will help each child see the importance of doing their best throughout Year 11 to achieve grades they can be proud of. The Class of 2025 are working very well. I am proud of them and grateful for your support at home. In recognition of hard work over half term and to reward consistently good attendance up until the Christmas break, we are planning a large reward event in school on Wednesday 18 December as well as a trip offsite for students whose effort and attendance is outstanding. Details of these rewards and students to be invited will soon follow.

I appreciate your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Edwards', written in a cursive style.

Stuart Edwards
Principal