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Re: Year 10 Mock Week 24.06.24

Dear Parents/Carer

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to inform you about the upcoming **mock exams for our Year 10 students, scheduled between Monday 24th June and Friday 28th June**. These mock exams are a pivotal component of your child's educational journey and ensure a secure stepping stone into their year 11 studies next year. Please be aware that students **must arrive at the Academy before 8.25 am**, in line with the Academy policy, so that morning exams can start promptly for 8.30 am. Students will be receiving a full timetable in tutor time this week.

Why are the mock exams Important?

These exams are an opportunity for teachers to assess each student's understanding of the material covered so far. The results will highlight strengths and areas needing improvement, allowing for targeted intervention and support where necessary. This ensures that any gaps in knowledge can be addressed quickly to ensure a solid start to year 11 in the next academic year. Over a number of years we also found that doing multiple mock exams throughout students' time at Grace served as a fantastic rehearsal for the final GCSE exams. They provide students with a realistic experience of exam conditions, helping them to develop effective exam techniques and time management skills. This practice is essential for ensuring they are well-prepared for the pressures of the real exams next academic year. Mock exams also provide a safe environment for making mistakes and learning from them, which is an essential part of the learning process. By understanding and addressing mistakes now, students can avoid repeating them in the final exams.

Every single lesson over the next few weeks will be carefully targeted to ensure that students have the best opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge in their mock exams so **attendance every day will be really important** to support students with the best possible start next academic year.

How You Can Support Your Child

Encourage Effective Study Habits: Help your child establish a study routine that includes regular breaks and a balanced approach to revision. Encourage the use of revision guides, past papers, and any resources provided by their teachers. If you would like any additional resources to help support your child please do let us know.

Create a Conducive Study Environment: Ensure your child has a quiet, well-lit, and comfortable space for studying. Reducing distractions can significantly enhance their concentration and productivity.

Be Supportive and Positive: We know all exams, even mock exams, can be stressful for some students. Offer emotional support and encouragement. Reassure your child that it's normal to feel a bit anxious and that the mock exams are a learning opportunity. Celebrate their efforts and progress, regardless of the results.

The upcoming mock exams are a vital part of your child's preparation for their GCSEs. They provide an invaluable opportunity for practice, assessment, and improvement. With your support and encouragement, I am confident that our students will approach these exams with determination and resilience, paving the way for their future success.

We know that national statistics show that good attendance is linked to student progress and those with higher attendance achieve at least 1 grade higher through the year. I'm sure you will agree that as we begin to transition into Year 11, this is the most crucial year for your child to attend school every day to allow them the best opportunity to learn and succeed. It is therefore paramount that holidays are not taken within the school term. I would also strongly recommend that holidays are not booked for the Easter holidays and Whitsun half term 2025, as there will be a structured revision timetable arranged during this time for all year 11 students. This has proved highly successful over the last few years and is undoubtedly a valuable experience for your child to succeed.

To support you in ensuring regular attendance, if your child's attendance drops below the expected level the school will continue to contact you regularly as well as providing in-school support, home-visits, and provide transport to the academy by collecting students on the mini-bus. We hope this will help everyone's attendance improve to the expected level.

If you require any assistance in getting your child to attend these mock examinations, please do not hesitate to reach out to us - we are here to help and support you in any way we can. Thank you once again for your cooperation and support in ensuring that your child attends the academy every day next week. We look forward to seeing their growth and success in the upcoming mock exams.

Yours sincerely,

Lucy Woods

Teacher of PE/Head of Year 10