23rd November 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

**Mock GCSE Examinations for Year 11**

Mock GCSE examinations will take place from **Thursday,** **5th January** to **Monday,** **16th January 2017** inclusive. The timetable will be suspended during this period and students will use their lesson time to revise when not scheduled to sit an examination. Exceptionally, an examination may extend beyond the end of the normal lesson time, and students should therefore be prepared for a slightly shortened break or lunch time, or a later departure from school on those occasions. The exam timetable may be found on the student vle under Year 11 notices, and those with special arrangements have been issued with personalised timetables.

Certain subjects will involve an assessment instead which will take place outside the mock exam period, namely **English Language Paper 1** which will take place in an English lesson during the week beginning **Monday,** **12th December**. The **Art** exam will take place on **Monday,** **19th** and **Tuesday, 20th December**, and the **Music** composition exam will take place on **Tuesday,** **17th** and **Wednesday,** **18th January 2017**.

All examinations and assessments are very important and will be a useful reflection of your daughter’s understanding of and engagement in her GCSE subjects. Her results will enable us to put in place specific interventions and strategies to support her and improve her performance, should we consider this necessary.

Students should not worry about the examinations but see them as an opportunity to show what they can do. We are mindful that this can be a stressful time for students and we are keen for your daughters to avoid excessive anxieties and maintain a calm approach. We would appreciate your support in helping us achieve this. Students will be reminded of revision techniques in lessons and examination etiquette in form time and year group assembly.

Your daughter should bring **black** pens, sharp pencils, a ruler and eraser to **all** examinations. In addition, extra equipment will be needed for the following examinations:

Mathematics calculator, protractor, pair of compasses.

Science calculator, protractor

Equipment should be carried in a see-through bag and mascots must not be brought into school.

The mock exam results will be issued in a special ceremony on **Friday, 27th January 2017**, in an attempt to replicate and prepare students for results day next August.

We would very much appreciate your support during this time. If your daughter has any concerns about the examinations she should speak to subject staff, her Form Tutor or myself as appropriate.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Fletcher

**Head of Year 11**