

## 25 March 2020

Dear Y11 Parents / Carers,

As you know, we are still unsure exactly how the government will decide on each Y11 student's GCSE grades this year. We've been told it will be a "calculated grade" using teacher assessment and a student's previous results (mock exams, coursework, other evidence of strong performance and more). Grades will be moderated by exam boards to ensure fairness.

The new system means it's important for Y11 students to still complete a set of March mock exams in each of their subject areas. We also believe it will be good motivation for them and a chance for us to then continue to teach / feedback to students about areas where they are performing well or need to improve.

We know these mock exams will not be as comprehensive or as rigorous as they would have been had we done them in school. However, it is still important that students are given a chance to show how much progress they have made since December (when they last sat a full set). It is widely accepted that most Y11 students accelerate their progress (through revision etc) as they approach the summer exams. These mocks will allow students to show that they are making this increased progress and give teachers evidence of work at that level.

Each subject will be carrying out their mocks in a way that is most appropriate for that subject area. In one subject – Art – they were completed before we closed. When it comes to taking a mock, students must make sure they have engaged with the instructions from their teacher (usually via Google Classroom or email) and are as well prepared as possible to take each exam. Most of these instructions have already been sent out and students will be completing exams across the course of this, and next, week (plus a few after Easter).

### **Exam conditions**

For teachers to confidently award appropriate marks for these mocks, students and their parents should make sure they are done in exam conditions. We understand that this may be not be completely possible in some cases and we ask that families should just do what they can to support this. We are asking students and parents to act in good faith here, although should point out that it's likely we will pick up on any plagiarised answers or unusual performance, because we know our students very well and are used to reading their work. Students should just try their best, and be honest.

'Exam conditions' mean students;

- take the exam on their own
- take the exam in one sitting (not taking long breaks in the middle or spreading exams out over several days)
- take the exam at the time set (if relevant and where possible)
- take the exam away from any distractions (younger siblings, TV in the background etc.)



- don't have their mobile phone anywhere near them
- don't access the internet (or look at text books/resources) whilst taking the exam

If you have any real difficulty in achieving a quiet, calm environment for the mocks to be sat, students should communicate that direct to their teachers.

If you have any questions about these mock exams I would suggest you email your child's classroom teacher, however please also copy the email to the relevant Head of Department, Mr Kirby and myself (just in case the teacher is unable to reply). One of us will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible, and I have included all Head of Department email addresses in the attached mock timetable.

A final point is that, as we have said previously, as soon as we have further details on the issuing of grades we will be in touch, and our earlier letters can be viewed here: <https://kaa.org.uk/students-parents/covid-19-parent-updates/>. For now, please just keep following KAA@Home activities.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anna Jordan', written over a large, stylized star shape.

**Anna Jordan**  
**Senior Vice Principal**