



18th November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Year 11 Mock Exams

After the motivation super learning day and the NEC careers trip last week, year 11 now enter their first year 11 mock window. We cannot fault the commitment and attitude of this cohort and with record numbers attending our first core Saturday school last Saturday, we are in the right direction for some great outcomes and progress over the next four weeks of term.

As ever, please let us know if your child is showing signs of burnout and/or anxiety at this point in the year. The cohort has approached all that we offer for revision and preparation with such energy, so we do need to be ultra-aware. For example, the students taking part in the school production this week will need to be well rested next weekend where possible.

In terms of key information for the mock period, please see below:

- History and religious studies Saturday school: 23rd November, 9.00am-12.15pm (religious studies will begin at 10.45am).
- Exam timetable** - pupils should have copies of these, but attached is the full list of exams for your reference. Students need to attend school as normal.
- We require strong attendance and punctuality during mock examinations as there are limited opportunities to catch up in time for examinations to be marked
- Attached to this letter is the revision timetable** - this stays unaltered during the mocks.
- Students should have full equipment for the exams - clear pencil cases and clear water bottles (with no labels) are required. No apple watches or other devices are to enter the exam space.
- Please do check our revision parent forum materials from earlier this month. These can be found by clicking on this link: [Alcester Academy | Revision Guides & Techniques](#)
- If your child needs resources to revise with, please let us know. These are often expensive to buy. We can organise revision cards, paper, highlighters etc.
- If your child has a part time or Saturday job, we do not recommend that they take on extra shifts during this period- it is important that mock examinations are prioritised.
- SAVE THE DATE.** Mock results will be issued at a parents' evening in school on Thursday 9th January 2025. More details of how to make appointments will be issued before Christmas. We advise all parents to attend.
- IMPORTANT.** If your child has extra time in exams, the following exams will run over end of school time - this cannot be helped and is in line with how several exams will operate in the summer. I will be in touch with the parents of children who travel home by bus to check alternative transport has been made - we appreciate the support. **Thursday 28th November: religious studies, Tuesday 3rd December: French, Thursday 5th December: religious studies.**



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SCHOOL



Alcester Grammar 'Thinking Skills' Programme

Applications are now open to apply for 'Thinking Skills' at Alcester Grammar School. You will find the link to apply for this, along with all other Post-16 information, on the Post-16 Google Classroom which your child is a member of. This will be updated as required regarding all post-16 applications.

Post-16 References

Following the recent open events with post-16 providers, some students are now able to begin making their applications. As always, my recommendation is that they apply for their preferred first choice, alongside an aspirational application and a back-up should they not achieve their expected grades next summer. This gives our students the best chance of securing a course that they are genuinely interested in pursuing.

Following the application, you will likely receive a reference request from the provider. This is an automatic response from the provider, and I wanted to inform you of the process we follow at Alcester Academy.

For many years now we have not sent out references until students have received their mock GCSE grades in January. This, along with the support from their tutors, allows us to provide the most accurate reference for your child therefore allowing them the best chance of a successful application. All local providers are aware of this process and will contact me directly to make the requests in the spring term. Please do not send reference requests directly to your child's tutor. With each student likely making three applications, the system we have created means that your child will have one generic reference for all applications which will contain all the required information. **Please ensure that you child uses Miss Bartlett's email address in relation to references careerzone@alcesteracademy.org.uk**

Please do not hesitate to get in touch should you have any further concerns during the mock examination season.

Kind regards

Mr Nick Cooke
Deputy Headteacher