

28th September 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

October Mock exams

Trial examinations start on Monday 4th October, and I am writing to highlight the importance of these for your son/daughter. It is extremely important that these examinations are taken seriously and that students revise for each one thoroughly. This is for the following reasons:

1. Colleges and Apprenticeship providers will ask your son or daughter and us for copies of trial grades to look at before granting an interview and they will be used to decide whether or not to offer a place.
2. Performance in trial examinations will be used to make set changes in November, this may affect which tier of paper students are able to take.
3. Teachers use gaps from the mock exams to inform them of what they need to teach next, therefore a student who revises thoroughly is more likely to be taught new information rather than have things repeated for them.
4. A good trial performance will build confidence.

For the reasons above, I would ask you to strongly encourage your son/daughter to use their books, GCSEPod and Hegarty maths to revise carefully over the next week.

A word on maths

Probably the most important subject to revise for is maths. Maths is a subject where you get better through practice. You can't revise for maths only one day before. The 3 maths papers will take place on 5th, 7th and 12th October. In order to be sure of making as good an effort as possible, I would strongly recommend that you ensure your son/daughter starts to revise **now**. We have a revision platform called [hegartymaths](http://hegartymaths.com) that students can access at home which tests them and shows them how to do things they can not do. If your son or daughter completes 30 minutes every night between now and the 12th October it will certainly make a difference to their grade. There is a direct link between the amount of time spent revising on Hegarty and student grades.

First impressions

Finally, I would like to thank you for your support this first half term. Students have made a really, really positive start, working hard in lessons and committing, without too much moaning, to the extra lessons after school that are helping them to make up for work they missed during the pandemic. It is early days, but I have a very positive feeling about them as a year group.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink, appearing to read 'C. McCall'.

Chris McCall
Associate Executive Principal