

Dear Parents/Carers

Further to my earlier letter, we feel it is important to proceed with the planned Mock Examinations, in order to gauge students' current level of understanding and to identify any gaps in their knowledge. This will provide valuable feedback about how we can support them to make even greater progress.

We will do our best to make this as smooth a process as possible, but ask for students' patience in these challenging circumstances.

Digital papers on Microsoft Teams

With the exception of Maths and Science papers, digital versions of the mock exam papers will be released to students on Microsoft Teams, via their subject teachers, to be completed in timed conditions. Papers will be made available in accordance with the attached timetable, and students will be required to submit their completed paper on Teams by a specific time (see below for extra time arrangements). We ask for parents and students' support in ensuring that these papers are completed in good faith, without reference to additional materials. This will, therefore, provide staff and students with the most valuable feedback.

Additional typing time

Papers have been adapted to make them easy for students to type into. However, we appreciate that students may not be able to type as quickly as they can handwrite. Therefore, an additional hour has been allowed for each paper, i.e. for a paper of 2 hours and 30 minutes, 3 hours and 30 minutes will be allowed for submission).

Students with Access Arrangements

Similarly, students entitled to access arrangements are able to add an additional 25% onto their working time. We ask that these students make a note on their answer paper when their additional time begins as this provides us with important evidence to submit to exam boards.

The option to sit your exams in school

If students do not have an appropriately quiet space to work in, or a suitable digital device (i.e. laptop or computer), provision will be made for them to complete their exams in school. We are now in a position to offer Lateral Flow Tests to staff and students, in order to further mitigate against the risk of Covid-19 transmission in school. If you would like to complete your exams in school please request this by emailing Mrs Addis eaddis@gillingham-dorset.co.uk

Maths and Science students

Maths and Science students will receive a paper copy of their papers through the post, as the answers require algebraic annotation which cannot easily be typed into a Word document. We ask that students post these back into school, marked for the attention of their subject teacher.

Should students have any queries related to these exams they should contact Mr Godfrey tgodfrey@gillingham-dorset.co.uk

By way of reassurance, it is important to reiterate that Centre Assessed Grades are the combination of different forms of assessment ranging from school work, homework, ongoing coursework and mock examinations. **No one singular assessment will be used to determine an overall grade. We will continue to teach and assess the examination programmes of study.** Consequently, students still have *'everything to play for'* and we wish them every success.

Kind regards,

S Turnbull

Sarah Turnbull

Deputy Headteacher