



HOWDEN SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr G Cannon

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Dear Parent/Carer

Mock Exam Series 2021

I am writing to explain how the “Mock exam” series will work this year. Under normal circumstances Mock exams are an opportunity for students to gain experience and develop their revision skills. This year the government is planning (and so we are planning) for exams to go ahead as normal. The government has also set out to schools a set of contingency plans in case exams cannot go ahead as normal. As part of these plans, we are to gather and collate evidence which “could” be used to generate students grades in the summer of 2022, if exams cannot go ahead as planned. As such we will be referring to the Mock exams this year as Key Assessment Pieces, this is to make it clear that this work could be used as evidence to show the grade our students are working at.

These “Key Assessment Pieces” will take place between the 8 November and 14 December 2021. I have attached a copy of the proposed timetable to this letter and it is worth noting that for many students there will be a higher number of exams during the real GCSE Exams in the summer 2022.

At first glance this timetable will look quiet shocking. It is important to remember students will only complete assessments in their subjects and not every option subject. I recommend the first thing that all students should do with this timetable is highlight the exams they will take and cross out the exams for subjects they do not study. Understanding the subjects that each student takes, in each option block, is essential to complete this task. We have recently emailed student timetables to parents/carers and each student has been issued with several paper copies of their timetable to assist this. If you need extra help please do get in touch.

You should also be aware for many GCSE subjects there is now no course work element or controlled assessment. As such the final grade the students achieve in many subjects will depend 100% on how well our students perform in exams.

It is important our students experience the challenge of preparing for a range of exams to help better prepare them for the exams in 2022 and exams in the future.

To assist students with their independent studying we have already set up a timetable of booster study support classes after school. I will also request that subjects share revision materials in lessons and via “Teams”.

As always revision is most effective when students start early and complete short sessions (10-20 minutes) on a regular basis.

If you require any further information or support for your child please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Harris
Deputy Headteacher