



June 2025

Dear Parent/ Carer

As you may already be aware, our Year 10 mock exams are due to commence on 16 June and will last for two weeks, with the last exam taking place on 27 June. Obviously it is imperative that students attend each and every exam and arrive on time at the start of the day. During this period, students will need to be in school at 8.30am, so that they can drop off their belongings and bags into the secured cage we have, to allow for line up at 8.40am. Students will then attend a 20 minute pre-exam focus session (PEF) which is crucial in making sure that they are ready for their exam. They will also have a PEF session for their afternoon exams.

During assembly this morning, students received the first copy of their full exam timetable. On this timetable are the subject of the exams they will be sitting, the time and date of each exam, the location they will be sitting the exam and also their seat number. For those students who receive access arrangements, these will also be on the exam timetable. Can I please ask that you go through this with your young person and check each exam and let us know if you believe there are any mistakes? Can I also ask you to check the name that is on the timetable, as this is the name that would be on any subsequent result certificate.

These mocks give the students their first taste of exam practice that will exactly replicate the way they will sit their actual GCSEs. School staff will not be present in the exams, but instead trained invigilators will be on hand to make sure examination regulations are adhered to. Any misbehaviour, opportunity to cheat, toilet breaks etc will be recorded and passed to our exams officer. With misbehaviour or opportunity to cheat, these would have to be sent to the exam board were it a real exam, and so we will follow a similar process in which we will decide if the student is disqualified from that exam. In their real GCSE exams, students run the risk of being excluded from all exams up to that point. I expect the students' behaviour to be outstanding; if it does not meet our expectations I will inform you.

Similarly, we expect the students to give their full effort in the exams. We do not expect students to get 100% on every exam, however we do expect them to try their best and attempt to answer every question. If we feel this has not been the case, I will liaise with the head of that department and decide whether they need to re-sit that exam. These re-sits will be after school and we will contact you if this is the case.

Whilst I appreciate there will be a level of stress and anxiety for the students during this time, I have explained to them that it is an opportunity for them to show us what they can do and for us to get a clear picture of what we as a school need to do to help them progress in Year 11. We also have mock periods during Year 11 in November and March where there will be opportunity for them to improve and show progress. If students do not perform as well as we would like during these mocks please be aware it is likely they will be assigned an after-school intervention session when we return in Year 11.

We obviously want to take the mental health of our students seriously during these times. To support any issues they may be having, we have made our Wellbeing team available in the mornings so that students can drop in. Please be aware that normal wellbeing sessions will also take place during this exam period. Similarly both Mrs Wainwright and myself will be there before and after every exam to help if need be. If you feel that your young person is struggling, please do not hesitate to contact us.

I want to thank you for your ongoing support with Year 10 and I sincerely look forward to seeing just how well they do in their mocks. I have seen first hand the effort they have put in and I would like to take this opportunity to wish them good luck. The results will be given out as part of their end of year report during the week beginning 14 July.

Should you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact the relevant member of staff:-

Access arrangements: kpearse@heanorgatespencer.org.uk

Attendance/punctuality: nwainwright@heanorgatespencer.org.uk

Mental health/timetable/general: dbentley@heanorgatespencer.org.uk

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Bentley', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr D Bentley
Achievement Leader - Year 10