



Ark Elvin Academy

13 October 2020

Dear Parents and carers of Year 11 Pupils,

It has been delightful to see our Year 11 pupils back in school for over a month now. They are used to the expectations with the changes for this year and have been working hard whilst staying safe.

I know that there has been lots of talk in the media about what will happen with exams this year – but as far as we know, GCSE exams will go ahead as expected next May/June.

Therefore, our mock exams this year feel more important than ever. They:

- Give our pupils and teachers the chance to see what has been learnt and where the gaps are
- Allow teachers to shape their teaching to suit the specific needs of their pupils
- Give our pupils the opportunity to practice completing assessments in exam conditions with clear time limits

We have two mock exam series this year, before the final GCSE exams next May/June:

- November 2020
- March 2021

The first series of mock exams is just under a month away. It is therefore vital that the pupils are working hard in order to prepare. There are a number of things you can do to support your child to be successful:

- Create the right environment – we know that pupils work best when they have a comfortable environment to work. You can support them by ensuring there is quiet, and by removing any distractions (e.g. keeping any electronic devices for them whilst they revise, returning them when they have finished)
- Support their wellbeing – helping pupils to eat a sensible, balanced diet and to get enough sleep is vital! We know that pupils can only perform to the best of their ability when the conditions are right
- Checking in with their homework and work plan – pupils record their homework in their planners each day; please check in and see what work they have to do. Over half-term, pupils will have made a personalised timetable, showing when they will be completing work each day. They should work for at least 3 hours a day, Monday-Friday, over the half term holidays.

In order to help you best support your child over the half term holidays and for the rest of the term, we are holding an online 'Helping My Child Prepare for Mock Exams' online Teams

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meeting on Tuesday 20th October from 17:00-17:45. We will be talking about the three points listed above and how can you best support your child for this mock exam series. Thank you for your support, and for working with us to help prepare pupils for success this year.

With Kind Regards,

Patrice Johnson
Head of Year 11