



SIR THOMAS FREMANTLE SCHOOL

A CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS AGED 11-19

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13th November 2020

Dear parent/carers of Year 11 students,

Re: Year 11 mock exams and revision resources

I wanted to get in touch to share with you all some exciting news for the next few weeks; mock exams are coming! The mock exams will run from Monday 23rd November to Friday 11th December and during the examination period all students will be completing their mocks and supported with study and revision prep in lessons rather than completing traditional lessons on the side. I have requested that staff limit homework set over this period to allow students to focus on their revision but instead provide structure and support to best prepare students for this examination diet.

The pandemic has created some challenges with the application of these mock exams and we have had to make some adjustments into how they will run because of this. Whilst these are not a perfect solution we believe that they still create a rigorous and fair reflection as to how students are performing within their subjects. Mocks will be split into sections and completed in classrooms under full examination conditions. All access arrangements for students who have them will be administered and this has been shared with students earlier this week.

The results from the mock exams will be shared with students in the early part of the Spring term to give staff the time to mark and moderate the mock exams properly. Hopefully, this will also allow students the opportunity to have a Christmas break not worrying about the grades that they have earned too.

Furthermore, I wanted to ask for your support in reminding all students of the need to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner within their mock exams. We do these examinations to try and ensure that when students enter the examination hall in the summer they are calm and confident in what to expect and how to go about their work. It is therefore important that all students take these exams seriously and follow all instructions from not having their phone on them, not wearing a watch (the classrooms will have clocks visible), having a clear pencil case, clear bottle with only water in it and being in full school uniform. This will allow the students to go through the mock exams smoothly and get the most accurate idea as to how they are getting on within their subjects. The mock examinations timetable will be given to all students this week but there is a digital copy attached to this email too. Can I also request that parents and carers ensure that all students have all the equipment that they need for their mock exams. This includes multiple black pens, a pencil, rubber, ruler, calculator and maths equipment as we cannot lend resources out during this period.

In an assembly this week along with tutor time, students have been given some support in how to create a study plan that they feel confident they can stick to whilst ensuring that they are revising in the best possible way. A blank template for this has been attached to the email in case anyone requires one and I would ask that parents and carers talk to students about their revision plans to help them stick to this and prepare in the best possible way for this set of mocks and their upcoming GCSEs too. I have also added a sample timetable at the bottom of this letter to illustrate a structure that students can follow if they are struggling to come up with their own study timetable. To further assist with the revision process we have notified students and staff that year 11s can take their class books home from today onwards to help them support their reliance and ensure that there is not an over-reliance on technology.



I wanted to draw your attention to the revision resources that are available for STFS students. These range from resources made by teachers, past papers and subscription websites like GCSE Pod that STFS have subscribed to. Each student has a log in for this website (www.gcsepod.com), which provides short videos that explain a wide range of concepts in all of the GCSE subjects. Currently this resource is not being as well used as it could be. Therefore, we are requesting that you encourage students to use this excellent resource to find out information, consolidate class notes and to improve their understanding in and outside of school. The GCSE Pod service can be accessed via the website and also an app that can be downloaded onto phones. The best feature of this service is that videos and pods can be downloaded onto phones while at home over Wi-Fi and then listened to at their leisure.

Many thanks for your time and please do not hesitate to get in touch if you require any further assistance. I am really keen to give the students the best chance of success in their GCSEs and am keen to ensure that they all feel this degree of support and start to use the resources available at STFS as effectively as possible.

Yours faithfully,

Mat Payne
 Director of Learning Leaders - mat.payne@sirthomasfremantle.org

Plan your revision

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	
Morning	20 mins – Maths	20 mins – Chemistry	20 mins – Physics	20 mins – Geography	20 mins – MFL	1.5 hour – English	1.5 hour – Maths	
Afternoon	1 hour - English	1 hour - Choice	1 hour - Choice	1 hour - English	Make a trickshots video	Watch sport	Do a past paper	
Evening	40 mins - Physics	Bake off	Taskmaster	40 mins - Chemistry	Catch up on sleep	1 hour - Biology	NFL	
Total revision: 12 hours								

