

Dear families:

**Re: Frequently asked questions from the Year 11 Parent Information Evening – Sept 2020.**

Following on from the Year 11 Parent Information Evening on Monday we have received a handful of questions from families. These questions and our responses are shared below for your information.

**1. When should we expect to see the schedule for the mock exams in November/December?**

The schedule for the mock exams is being finalised with Subject Leaders at present and will be sent out to families before the October half term break to enable students to be planning their revision. We will also be making use of the extended registration period in school to support students with revision techniques and planning ahead of these assessments.

The results from these assessments will be shared with families directly after the Christmas break and will be useful in supporting students in their applications to various Post-16 providers.

**2. How can we support our son in his preparation for his mock examinations?**

The support you can offer for your son will be important as he builds to his mock exams. We will share tips for both families and the boys themselves later this term as a guide to use. In the meantime, we would encourage you to support your son to re-establish the routines that were in place prior to the March 20<sup>th</sup> lockdown. We would encourage you to consider routines about homework completion, sleep patterns and staying healthy.

It would also be helpful to encourage your son to give early thought to his preferred destination routes for post-16 education. We have found that students with a clear vision or ambition about what lies ahead after their GCSEs are more motivated and engage better with the opportunities of Year 11.

**3. How is homework being managed this year – balancing revision with other forms of home learning?**

Homework continues to be an important part of the preparation for the GCSE examinations. In Year 11 this may well take on more of a revision focus which requires the boys to reflect upon their previous work and complete tasks which support the development of their understanding.

The most successful students take a more structured approach to their independent learning and often engage well in after-school homework or revision sessions in order to support their preparation for the final examinations.

**4. Will the school be running additional revision/support sessions after school throughout the year?**

In short, yes! However, part of our plan to support the normalisation of the return to full-time school for both staff and students is to start these in the build up to October half term rather than from the very start of the year.

A schedule of the revision sessions available will be being sent home ahead of their start.

**5. How can I be sure that my son's specific needs are supported during the build up to and during the mock and final examinations?**

If you have specific questions about Exams Access Arrangements ahead of the mock and final exams, please do speak directly to Mrs Foster (Head of Inclusion) who oversees this specific layer of student support.

**6. What specific support will be on offer to the boys who will be sitting their v-Cert Engineering external assessment in November?**

We are currently confirming the exact level of support and 'additional' sessions that we are able to put on for the Engineering students as we recognise the importance of their external assessment at the end of November. More details will be circulated by the Engineering team in the coming weeks so that students and families can make any necessary preparations.

Should you have any further questions that you would like to ask, please do contact either Mr Reynolds ([lreynolds@st-birinus.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:lreynolds@st-birinus.oxon.sch.uk)) or Mr Irwin ([girwin@st-birinus.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:girwin@st-birinus.oxon.sch.uk)) directly. If you have queries relating to specific subjects please to contact your son's teachers directly or indeed the relevant Head of Department/Faculty

Mr Irwin

September 2020