



Year 12 Summer Mock Examinations

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Dear Parents

As I am sure you are aware, we will soon be approaching the week of internal mock examinations for Year 12. These will take place between 10 June and 19 June.

Study Leave

As a reminder, to support your son or daughter's preparation for these examinations, we are granting seven days' study leave that will run from Wednesday 10 June to Friday 19 June inclusive. This means that there will be no timetabled lessons, giving your son or daughter time to carry out independent study in the way that they will for the full A Level examinations next year. Your son or daughter does not, therefore, need to come into school on any days where they do not have an examination if they prefer to study at home; however, they may still come and revise in the LRC and Study Centre if they wish. We will require your son or daughter to sign in and out in the Sixth Form Centre each day that they are in school, as there will be no tutor group registrations, and they should wear full school uniform as usual.

In an assembly on 19 May, we reminded the year group about the importance of these mock examinations, not only for helping to inform initial department predictions and UCAS grades for next year, but also to give your son or daughter their own idea of how they are performing in their subjects. The granting of the study leave is designed to reinforce how seriously we want these examinations to be taken, as we know full well that linear A Levels can be a tough academic challenge in Year 13. It goes without saying that the better prepared your son or daughter is at the end of Year 12, the more able they will be to tackle the second half of their A Level courses and give subject teachers an idea of what they are likely to ultimately achieve in Year 13.

Examination Information

For your information, the timetable for the mock examinations is currently posted on the main page of SharePoint. It is important that your son or daughter knows the start time for each individual examination before arriving for each session.

We also used the assembly on 19 May to ensure that your son or daughter is aware of the logistics and protocols for the mock examinations that will be similar to those of the external examinations next year. This will include the following:

- All examinations are in the Sports Hall, unless access arrangements of a laptop or a smaller room are required, where students will be in V6.
- Students should make their way to their venue 15 minutes before the start of their examination. If their examination is in the Sports Hall, they should wait outside in the carpark area between the Pavilion and the field. They should not enter the Sports Hall via the corridor by the Snack Pod.
- Students are not permitted to bring bags, mobile phones, watches, MP3/4 players, smart glasses or any other web-enabled device into the Sports Hall. Similarly, they must not have any notes on their person or writing on their hands and arms.
- No food is allowed in the examination venue, but a non-sugary drink is permitted in a clear bottle with no labels or writing. All prohibited items should be left in their bags in the Sixth Form Centre.
- Students should bring all the correct equipment for their examinations:
 - Black pens only (including several spares),
 - Pencils,
 - Eraser,
 - Ruler,
 - Pencil sharpener,
 - Calculator for those examinations requiring one (no lids to be brought into the examination),
 - Geometry set for those examinations that require them (please note, geometry sets are sometimes needed for Psychology, i.e. a protractor, pair of compasses).
- Ideally, all equipment should be brought into the examination venue in a clear pencil case or clear plastic bag.
- Students must be silent on entering and exiting the examination venue. Students should not talk or try to communicate with any other candidate in the examination venue. They must always face forward. They may not pick up any dropped items, either for themselves or another student, or lend any equipment to another student. In external examinations, this is all considered to be communication and can be seen as malpractice. If they drop anything, they must raise their hand and an invigilator will come and pick it up for them.
- If students need the toilet during an examination, they must raise their hand for an invigilator to take them. No time will be added to the examination for this unless students have rest breaks arranged for this very purpose.

It is usual practice for invigilators sometimes to refuse to take students to the toilets if it is within 10 minutes of the start or end of the examination, unless a student has a recognised access arrangement/medical need.

If your son or daughter has any questions about the above information, please ask them to speak to either me, Mr Pilkington Crowe (Head of Year 12), their Form Tutor or Mrs Tyler (Examinations Officer). They can also email exams@strs.org.uk

Work Experience

Work experience is due to take place for Year 12 students when they start Year 13, taking place during the week commencing 31 August. The decision to have work experience at this time of year has been made to reduce the disruption to lesson time for students. This week will give your son or daughter an opportunity to develop their soft skills, as well as gain valuable insight into their chosen organisations and the career opportunities within these fields. I know that many members of Year 12 have secured exciting work experience placements and volunteering work to help further enhance their own development, as well as the content of their upcoming personal statement or next stage applications.

If your son or daughter is unwell at any point during the week, they need to let the company know. We also ask that parents inform the School in the usual way via Parent Gateway. Mrs Manning (Head of Careers) will be sending instructions out to students about how to log their experiences for future use in university or apprenticeship applications.

Student Parking

As a school, we strive to regularly emphasise the need for our students to show due respect and consideration for our local community, and to be especially considerate in relation to their parking. Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate student parking on our school site, and several of our older students drive to school.

We encourage our students to park away from the School and walk in to reduce congestion immediately outside. Attached to this email is a map of the local area, and we strongly discourage students from parking on the highlighted roads.

Thanks to the generosity of the Old Richian's Rugby club, we are able to provide a parking space for several of our students in their car park (also shown on the map). Students who wish to take advantage of this must collect a parking permit from Ms Webb in the Sixth Form.

For those students who park in public areas, we regularly emphasise what constitutes safe and appropriate parking:

- Not parking next to, or near, dropped curves and neighbours' driveways
- Not parking on or near junctions

In the past, it has been very helpful for students to provide us with their registration plate so that, should we receive a complaint related to parking, we can aim to reach a swift conclusion to the matter. To help us continue with this, please could we ask that you complete the online form below to submit your son or daughter's registration plate. Please be assured that this information will be deleted once a student leaves us, or they inform us they are no longer driving to school.

<https://forms.office.com/e/NEG7ZBGkc7>

We expect all students who choose to drive to school to support us, both in making us aware of their car, and by making good choices when parking outside of school. We are confident that, by working together, we can maintain the positive relationship with our immediate local community that is so important to us.

It just leaves me to say that I wish your son or daughter all the very best with their examinations.

Kind regards

A Williams

Alun Williams

Head of Sixth Form

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