



2 December 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

YEAR 11 MOCK EXAMINATIONS

As you may be aware, Year 11 Mock Examinations will take place from Tuesday 6 to Monday 19 January 2026. Students have now been provided with the timetable for their mock exams through the Year 11 Google Classroom. There is also a copy on the school website, found [here](#). Students will also be able to view their individual exam timetable along with their exam venue and seating information on Edulink from 2nd December. The mock period is an important experience for students and one in which they can practise exam style questions in timed conditions in a formal setting; it is never quite the same as doing tests in a classroom. It is also useful for them to learn how to cope with multiple exams in a relatively short period of time.

An [AHS Candidate Exam Handbook](#) is available on the school website under Curriculum: Exams. As these mock exams are run to give the students a realistic feel for their summer exams we ask you to go through this carefully with your daughter so that they, and you, are fully aware of the expectations and regulations. Any students with a timetabled subject clash will receive their own personal amended timetable with the clashes resolved, via their Edulink portal. Students with resolved clashes will be supervised between the two assessments. They will be able to revise and prepare for the second assessment but will not be permitted access to computers or mobile phones. This is about preserving the integrity of the process for everyone and we appreciate your understanding. If this affects your daughter, please ensure she has food and drink with her as they will not be able to access the Dining Hall during supervision. Please also discuss the need to use their legal names when completing personal details on examination papers. This is good practice for the summer, as the awarding bodies will require the use of legal, and not preferred or chosen names, in order to produce exam certificates which are themselves legal documents.

For mock exams, Y11 students will continue to attend school as usual. When they are not scheduled to attend an exam, they will go to their usual lessons where they will be allowed to get on with silent private study under the supervision of their teachers. In revision lessons students will be permitted to wear headphones to listen to music during private study, in order to facilitate focused, silent and undisturbed revision. During this period, they should continue to attend in full school uniform, however their blazers will not be permitted in the exam halls and there is a ban on phones or watches of any kind in any exam hall. They should arrive at their exam venue in good time (15 minutes before the exam begins) which may mean they need to ask teachers to leave lessons early to facilitate this. If a student is going to be late for a morning exam, due to traffic or a late bus, for example, they or you should phone reception to let the school know. If a student is ill on the day of an exam, the normal procedure should be followed and the school absence line used to report the illness. Mock exams should replicate the real exam season as far as possible and therefore students who are unwell will not get another chance to take their mock exam unless there is a doctor's letter to back up their condition. If students miss their mock exam they should liaise with their subject teacher, who will decide if it

is appropriate for students to have a copy of the paper to complete in their own time. If all mocks for a subject are missed, the school will not be in a position to give centre/teacher assessed grades, should the need arise. If students have an exceptional and unavoidable situation arise during the mock period, they must inform Mrs Taylor and Mrs Tripathy in advance. In these cases, we will endeavour to reschedule the exam as soon after the original date as possible.

Art and Textiles mock exams will have taken place before the Christmas break and therefore students who take these subjects will continue to work in their Art and Textiles lessons as normal, unless they are in another exam. Textiles students will attend an extra session on Tuesday 6 January during P5 and Art students will attend an extra session on Wednesday 7 January during P5. In this session, their teachers will introduce the Externally Set Assessment so that they can make a start on this as soon as possible.

Different subjects take different amounts of time to complete their marking; marking for essays for example can take a lot longer than sticking to a right/wrong mark scheme. In the two-week period following the mocks, teachers will give back the mock papers and go through them with students, explaining total marks, grades and where improvements can be made. Most students use their grades as a means of getting into the Sixth Form. At AHS the entry requirement is 44 points and, by giving students this information after the mocks, we hope it will help them with their next steps. The results will then be sent home later to parents.

It is extremely important to recognise that the grades students achieve in the mocks is not necessarily what they are going to achieve in the real exams. Students can realistically expect to either maintain their mock grades or to improve upon them due to a range of factors. Also, most subjects will not have finished the course content by January, but this will have happened by the real exams and students will be able to revise knowing that they have all the necessary information. After Easter, they can be almost entirely focused on revision, which in the middle of their different courses is not possible. All NEA elements will have been completed before they go on study leave and students should take this opportunity to look at the NEA information on the website (under Learning: Exams) to familiarise themselves with the school NEA procedures.

We appreciate that the exams are straight after the Christmas holidays and we would like to encourage the students to do as much work as possible prior to the Christmas break to ensure they balance the holidays with revision and having a restful break. Teachers will be asked to not set students any non revision homework from Wednesday 3 December. This will allow students to focus on language oral exams, the Textiles and Art mock exam, and revision and preparation for January.

Although mock grades do not count towards the students' final GCSE grades, we are expected (following national guidelines) to keep mock exam papers as evidence of achievement just in case they were ever needed.

Our students still haven't yet reached the end of their GCSE studies and there is time to progress further and develop their revision skills. I am incredibly proud of all of them and I have no doubt that they will achieve great things next summer. Mocks are an important learning curve, and students should embrace them confidently, seeking advice and support where needed, and ensuring they do not put too much pressure on themselves.

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Mrs E Taylor
Head of Year 11