

5 June 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Y10 Mock Exams

I am writing to inform you that as per the school's assessment cycle, all students in Y10 will sit school mock exams from Tuesday 17 June to Friday 27 June 2025. These exams are an opportunity to assess how your child is performing in relation to the GCSE course and identify gaps in knowledge which will need to be addressed across the remaining twelve months. To do this effectively, it is necessary to mirror the actual exam series as much as possible and therefore the exams will take place in the same conditions as the real GCSE exams. The exam governing body, JCQ, are explicit in their expectations of schools in conducting national exams. It is imperative that your child adheres to these rules as any infringement must be reported to the examining body.

Students are only allowed the required equipment in an exam. Please can you ensure that your child is fully equipped for their exams. In addition, students will need a scientific calculator for many of their exams, including Science and not just for their Maths exams. The school suggests a Casio fx-83GTCW.

All exams start at the published time. Morning exams will start at 9am, so this will require your child to be at school no later than 8.40am. Students will be required to listen to an exam briefing in the main hall before entering the exam hall/rooms. Afternoon exams will start at 1.30pm, so this will require students to be in the main hall for an exam briefing at 1pm. An early lunch will be provided for students who have an exam in the afternoon.

The exams team will be using a handheld metal detector to safeguard your child against disqualification from their real GCSE exams. Mobile phones, headphones and all watches (smart or normal) are not allowed in the exam hall/rooms. Students cannot take anything into the exam in their pockets including money, bus passes etc. To ensure that students do not break these regulations, the invigilators will use the security wands as the students enter the exam hall. Students may also be requested to turn out their pockets. Once again, this measure is not about 'catching out' the students, but rather a way of limiting any impact on their GCSE results.

These mock exams allow staff to give invaluable feedback which can support curriculum areas to plan to address the misconceptions between Y10 and the real exams, in summer 2026.

Intervention and tiers of entry are dependent upon the results of these exams, and as such, we ask that the students take them seriously. We ask that students try every question and apply maximum effort to the papers. A lack of effort will be challenged by staff as we want to ensure that every child reaches their fullest potential. Staff will communicate with you if there is underperformance, and students will be expected to re-sit the papers in their own time when it is felt that they have not tried hard enough. The school appreciates your support in reiterating this message at home.

Please find attached an overview of the upcoming Y10 mock exams. This is a provisional timetable; your child's personalised timetable will be given to them in form time. We will notify you via SIMs parent App when this happens. Please ensure this is kept safe as it includes very important information regarding your child's exams.

MFL Speaking Exams

As part of the Y10 school exams, students will also complete a mock speaking exam in French or Spanish. This is an opportunity for the students to experience a speaking exam in a formal setting. The exam is not a full speaking exam, but rather a slightly redacted version. All MFL students will be assessed on a photocard, role play and a limited number of speaking questions for the general conversation. This has been prepared before May HT for students to practice over the break. These assessments will take place between **Monday 9 June** and **Friday 13 June 2025**, and your child will have their own 25-minute appointment which includes 15-minute preparation time and approximately 10-minute examination time. Your child's allocated time will be shared with them by their class teacher. For more information, please contact your child's MFL teacher.

Attendance of all exams should be of paramount importance, to replicate the Y11 GCSE exams. However, if you are aware that your child will not be available for any of these mock exams, please contact dmoss1@stocksbridge-mlt.co.uk at your earliest convenience so that swift action can be taken. Please note that all non-urgent appointments should be made outside of the exam timetable.

Finally, we understand that assessments of any kind can cause undue pressure on students, and this is something that we wish to avoid. To support your child, we will dedicate some time in Form Time to address how to revise, how to stay healthy during the exams and how students can organise themselves in advance of the exams. We will also be holding assemblies about what to expect in the exams. We must emphasise that the mock exams are a tool used to see where our students are on their journey, and it is not expected that they should know everything at this stage. Managing this expectation via discussions at home, as well as in school, is important. However, should you become concerned about your child's wellbeing, please contact their Form Tutor who will be able to provide support and refer to the Y10 pastoral manager, Mrs Luttrell (lluttrell@stocksbridge-mlt.co.uk) if necessary.

Thank you in advance for your support during these exams.

Yours faithfully,

Claire Johnson
Deputy Headteacher