



## St. Ninian's HIGH SCHOOL

Scoil Ard Noo Ninian

### LOWER SCHOOL (Years 7 – 9)

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HEAD TEACHER Mr C. J. Coole

Our Ref: AGN/TB/Exams

20<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Dear Student

### Re: Year 10 Internal Examinations (Mocks)

Over the week beginning 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025 all Year 10 students will sit a series of mock examinations for English, Maths, Science and RE. These exams do not lead to official grades but the results will be used, along with other key assessments, to generate forecast grades (the grade we think a student will achieve at the end of their course).

Most students will be sitting a real GCSE Maths exam in the summer of 2025 and therefore these mock exams are vital in ensuring students are fully aware of the expectations surrounding 'real exams' and how to prepare effectively. Reflection on what has been successful, and what could be improved upon, will be critical elements; helping to identify your priorities for the remainder of the year and where support may be beneficial.

### Timetables

The exams team will be writing home with the final details of all examinations taking place. Students will receive individual timetables which will contain the specific details of the paper to be taken; along with the date, time, location, and seat number for each exam. Exam Board expectations will also be distributed, it is very important that you take notice of these, as all mock exams will be run under formal conditions.

Tutors and subject teachers will assist students in identifying and noting when and where their exams are being held and what equipment they will need to have with them. If you have any queries in this regard, please contact your tutor or subject teacher in the first instance. Further concerns can be directed to a member of the exams team or email [snhsexams@sch.im](mailto:snhsexams@sch.im).

### Study Leave

During the mock examination period all students will have the option to take study leave should they wish, this will mean that you only attend school when you have an assessment. Year 10 lessons will however continue to run and therefore, should you wish to come into school, you can follow your usual timetable. During the mock examination period these lessons will be focusing on preparation for exams or, if that subject is not running a mock paper, consolidation and extension work to support the overall curriculum content and scheme of work. Should you wish to take study leave we would ask that your parent confirms this in advance via the Student Absences email address.

Continued...

*Live to Learn*  
*Learn to Live*

### **Equipment**

Mock exams are run under the exact same conditions as external examinations therefore please ensure you arrive to the exam room with the correct equipment, you are not allowed to borrow, or share equipment in the exam room; you must be self-sufficient. You must write in **black pen** and bring all additional specialist equipment required for the paper you are sitting.

Please also remember you must NOT arrive to the exam room with electrical items (Phones, airpods, etc), any kind of watch, pieces of paper (timetables, labels, packaging) or coats. These items must be stored elsewhere, or left at home.

In order to support Year 10 in being self-sufficient for their mock examinations the following checks will be taking place:

*Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January:* Exam Preparation Assembly

*W/B 13<sup>th</sup> January :* Year 10 will have their calculators checked by their Maths teacher during lesson time to ensure that they are compliant with Awarding Body regulations. It is advised that for KS4 you have the calculator, or similar, on the following link <https://www.casio.co.uk/fx-83gt-cw-black>. Only exam compliant calculators will be permitted into the examination venues.

*Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January:* Your Tutors will conduct an equipment check with the Tutor Groups. On this day you will be requested to bring in your 'exam pack' which should be in a clear pencil case.

Should you have any concerns that you will not be able to have the correct equipment for either the checks or the mock examinations please discuss this with your Tutor or Head of Year and we can explore possible solutions.

### **Uniform**

Exam boards require us, as an exam centre, to maintain our expectations of students with respect to equipment, uniform, punctuality and behaviour. Meeting these expectations is a sign of respect to others and indicates the value and importance an individual places on the activity being undertaken. Students are expected to be in full school uniform for all of the mock exams. Should you turn up not in correct and complete uniform then you risk not being admitted to the exam hall and therefore missing out on the valuable experience.

### **Preparation**

Experience shows that students who fail to prepare adequately for mock exams also fail to prepare adequately for their final GCSE examinations and so we would strongly advise that the mock exam week is approached as though they are 'the real thing'. This allows for meaningful reflection and impactful changes to be made.

I know that many students will have already begun, or are planning to begin, their revision schedule; for those students who have not yet started, now is the time to really focus on preparing thoroughly. Your Tutor and class teachers will be able to advise you on how best to design revision timetables and on prioritising areas of subject knowledge and skills.

We would be most grateful if parents/guardians could continue to support and encourage students by:

- Taking an active interest in how students are preparing.
- Helping students to plan their time effectively, by designing a revision schedule.
- Providing a suitable location, time and atmosphere for students to revise at home.
- Supporting students in knowing their location and time information for each exam, as well as what equipment will be required.

Yours faithfully



Mrs A Neill  
Assistant Head Teacher