



KIRKBY

Outwood Academy Kirkby

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Lead Principal: Mr A Scruby

Monday 2nd February 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to share key information about the forthcoming **Year 11 mock examination series**, which will run from **Monday 23 February to Tuesday 17 March**. These mocks are an important part of students' preparation for their final GCSE examinations and are designed to replicate external exam conditions as closely as possible. They help students build confidence, practise routines, and identify priorities for revision and intervention.

Arrival times and exam briefings

To ensure each exam starts smoothly and calmly, we ask for your support in ensuring your child is **on site promptly from 08:15** each day during the mock series.

- **Pre-exam briefings will take place at 08:25am**
- **AM exams start at 09:00am**
- **PM exams start at 13:15pm**

Students who arrive late may miss important instructions and feel unnecessarily anxious at the start of an exam. Punctuality during this period is crucial.

Equipment and preparation

Please support your child to be fully prepared each day by ensuring they have:

- A clear pencil case containing black pens (and spares), pencil, ruler, eraser and a calculator (where required)
- Any additional subject-specific equipment that their teacher has advised.

Water bottles

Students may bring water into the exam hall, but only in a clear bottle with the label removed.

Exam regulations: items not allowed

To comply with exam regulations, students must not take the following into the exam hall:

- Mobile phones
- Smartwatches / watches
- Headphones/earbuds
- Bags
- Notes, revision materials or any unauthorised items

All bags and prohibited items must be stowed in the cages outside the exam hall. Please reinforce at home that phones and smartwatches must not be brought into the exam hall under any circumstances, as this constitutes a serious breach of exam rules.

Behaviour and conduct

Students are expected to behave exactly as they would in external examinations, including moving calmly around the site and following staff instructions immediately. Any incidents of misconduct or refusal to follow instructions will be reported and addressed in line with our expectations.

Seating arrangements and lunch

Students can check their seating arrangements in the Dining Hall and on entry to the Sports Hall.

During the mock series, Year 11 lunch will take place during Lunch 1 (12:25 - 12:55).

How you can support at home

Your support over the mock period makes a real difference. We recommend the following:

1) Establish a clear revision routine

- Encourage a consistent routine each evening (short, focused sessions are better than long, irregular ones).
- Use a simple weekly plan to spread subjects out and avoid last-minute cramming.
- Prioritise areas identified by teachers and any topics from recent assessments.

2) Use effective revision strategies

The most effective revision is active, not passive. Encourage your child to:

- Self-test using practice questions and mark schemes
- Create and use flashcards (key terms, case studies, formulae)
- Practise timed exam questions to build exam technique.
- Revise little and often, returning to topics repeatedly (spaced practice)

3) Support wellbeing and readiness

- Encourage good sleep routines, especially on exam nights.
- Ensure breakfast is eaten and students arrive calm and on time.
- Reinforce positive habits: preparedness, punctuality, and resilience.

4) Attendance and communication

If your child is unwell and unable to attend an exam, please contact the academy as early as possible so we can advise you appropriately.

Thank you in advance for your support throughout the mock examination period. By working together to reinforce punctuality, preparation and effective revision habits, we can help every student approach these mocks with confidence and make the strongest possible progress towards their final exams.

Yours faithfully,

J. Morrin

Joe Morrin

Assistant Principal