

February 2026

Dear Parent/ Carer

Mock Examinations – Year 11

I am writing to inform you of the forthcoming mock examinations for your Year 11 child. The main set of examinations will take place from Monday 23 February to Friday 6 March.

As I am sure you appreciate, the mock examinations are a vital part of Year 11. They provide the last formal opportunity before the real exams for students to demonstrate the progress they have made. The results also allow teachers to identify any remaining gaps in knowledge and skills so we can best support your child in the lead-up to the summer examination season.

Please also be aware that, in the event of any medical issues or circumstances that prevent a student from completing their final GCSE examinations, the mock examination marks may be used as supporting evidence. For this reason, it is important that students take these assessments seriously and give their best effort.

In addition, many colleges and further education providers request predicted or estimated grades on application forms. Your son/daughter may need to use the grades from the Progress Report issued after these mock examinations for this purpose if they have not yet applied to Further Education.

The mock exam period is intentionally busy and can often feel more intense than the real GCSE examination season. This is because:

- We aim not to remove students from lessons for longer than necessary, as they still have content to learn before the summer exams.
- Some subjects experience 'clashes', during the real examinations, which are scheduled nationally, meaning additional sessions need to be fitted into the same timeframe.
- During the real GCSE period, students will frequently sit morning and afternoon exams on the same day, and experiencing this routine now prepares them for the expectations of the summer exam season.

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Satchell Lane, Hamble, Southampton, SO31 4NE

Headteacher: Miss L Cambridge, BSc (Hons), MA Ed. NPQH



Although demanding, this structure gives students vital experience and builds confidence and stamina for the final exams.

Student Wellbeing

Supporting student wellbeing during this time is essential. Please encourage your child to:

- Prioritise early nights rather than staying up late to cram
- Eat a nutritious breakfast on exam days to support concentration
- Maintain a balanced approach to revision during half term, ensuring they revise but also rest
- Take regular breaks, stay hydrated and spend time away from screens
- Keep routines steady and calm

A sustainable, steady approach will help students feel more confident and prepared.

Examination Timetable

Examination timetables have already been issued to students, and an overview timetable is enclosed with this letter. Your child is expected to attend school as normal throughout the examination period. Subject teachers will direct students to their examinations at the correct times.

Some examinations may begin during tutor time, run into break or lunchtime, or finish after the end of the school day. Students must remain in school for the full duration of their timetabled examinations.

If an examination finishes later than usual, please ensure arrangements are in place for your child to travel home. Students will not be released early, so alternative transport arrangements may be required. Please remind your child that they are not to ask Invigilators if they can leave early when the exam runs past the end of the school day; if they have a medical appointment after school you must notify us in advance and provide evidence.

Equipment

Students must bring the correct equipment to each examination:

- Spare black pens
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Eraser
- Maths equipment
- Scientific calculator (where permitted)

All items must be in a clear pencil case or plastic wallet. Students may bring a clear water bottle.

We are unable to issue equipment during examinations. Bags and mobile phones must be placed in the locked container before entry, and students must remain silent from the point of lining up until the examination has ended.

Students must wear full school uniform for all examinations.

Intervention

After-school intervention will be cancelled for the duration of the mock examinations, from Monday 23 February until Friday 6 March, so that students can go home and rest.

Intervention will resume on Tuesday 10 March.

Study Leave

There is no study leave for Year 11. When students are not in an examination, they are expected to attend their normal timetabled lessons, where staff will continue to support them. Teachers are fully aware of students' exam commitments and will plan lessons accordingly.

Thank you in advance for your support with the forthcoming mock examinations. If you have any questions regarding the exam process or revision, please email general@thehambleschool.co.uk and mark FAO your child's tutor.

Yours faithfully



Mrs S Valleley
Deputy Headteacher

If, at any time, you should require special arrangements to be made when visiting the school and/or in order to participate fully in supporting your child at school (e.g. an accessible venue for meetings, if you are a wheelchair user, assistance with translation of documents or enlarged copies of communications etc.), please do not hesitate to let us know.

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