PERSEVERE

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WALTON HIGH SCHOOL

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October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 11 Mock Examinations – November - December 2026

As part of our continued commitment to preparing students for their final GCSE examinations in Summer 2027, Year 11 students will be sitting a full set of *mock examinations* between **Thursday 26th November and Friday 11th December 2026**. The general **mock exam timetable** is attached to this letter and is also available on the school website under Student Information – Exams; students will also receive a personalised copy of their mock exam timetable with only the subjects that they study in November via their Form Tutor.

These examinations are an important milestone in your child's academic journey, providing both students and teachers with a clear picture of current progress and areas for further development. They also give students valuable experience of sitting exams under *formal JCQ (Joint Council for Qualifications)* conditions, mirroring exactly how the summer series will operate.

Examination Arrangements

The mock examinations will run in the same way as the **Summer 2027 GCSEs**, with all JCQ rules and regulations applied. This includes following exam hall protocols, seating plans, invigilation, and the use of approved materials only.

The schedule for the mock examinations is as follows:

- **English:** Language Papers 1 and 2, and 1 Literature Paper
- **Science:** 3 papers in total – one for each discipline (Biology, Chemistry, and Physics) for both Combined and Triple Science students
- **Mathematics:** A full suite of 3 papers covering all topics
- **Non-core subjects:** 1 paper per subject
- **French/German:** Writing papers completed in class time
- **Drama:** additional practical assessments completed in class time
- Subjects may assess additional aspects of the course during lesson time during the month of December to support an accurate collection of current assessment data if they require – your child's subject teacher will inform your child if this will be scheduled.

Due to the differing lengths of mock examinations, students may receive different breaktimes to those offered to the rest of the school and may wish to bring their own breaktime refreshments. Afternoon examinations start at 1.30pm; in the case of an afternoon examination finishing earlier than the end of the school day, students will be released to go home from 3pm at the earliest. If you are happy for your child to leave the school site from 3pm on occasions where afternoon exams are shorter, you do not need to do anything. **If you wish for your child to remain**

on the school site until 3.15pm, please email Miss Humphreys by Friday 13th November so that we can arrange for provision to be put in place.

Exam Access Arrangements and Extra Time

If your child has formal Exam Access Arrangements approved, these Access Arrangements will be planned for and provided for them. If your child is eligible for extra time during examinations, transport home may be affected for afternoon exams so please take this into consideration when making transport/collection arrangements. If your child is eligible for 25% extra time, they will be asked to remain in the exam venue for the full allocation of extra time and to switch to writing in purple pen during the extra time period. Students are free to bring their own purple pen, or they will be provided one in the exam venue. As of September 2026, schools must now evidence the use of extra time as the student's 'normal way of working'. Under new JCQ regulations from September 2026, for 25% extra time, schools are now required to evidence a student's application of extra time through completing JCQ paperwork and providing a sample of internal school tests/mock exam papers across relevant subjects showing the application of 25% extra time, and including comments and observations from teaching staff in relevant subjects as to why the candidate needs 25% extra time and how they use the 25% extra time awarded. If your child does not make use of this extra time cannot be evidenced, they may lose this entitlement for their summer 2027 exams under JCQ rules.

Please support your child's progress and attainment by ensuring their **attendance** during this important examination period. If your child is absent for any of their Mock examinations, every effort will be made to support them to sit their examination papers in exam conditions week commencing 14th December, which are **scheduled contingency days.**

Preparing Effectively for the Mocks

To help students perform to the best of their ability, we encourage them to begin **structured revision now**. Effective preparation involves:

- **Creating a realistic revision timetable** that balances all subjects and includes regular breaks.
- **Using class notes, revision guides, and past papers** to consolidate knowledge and practise exam-style questions.
- **Attending revision sessions** offered by departments and asking teachers for support on any difficult topics.
- **Reviewing feedback** from class assessments and targeting weaker areas.
- **Maintaining healthy routines** – including good sleep, balanced meals, and time for rest and exercise.

We recommend that parents support their child by providing a quiet study space, monitoring their progress against a revision plan, and encouraging positive study habits. A timetable of Year 11 revision sessions that your child is able to access in school is attached to this letter, as well the GCSE Exam board information and a parent and student guide on Effective Revision Strategies.

The Importance of the Mock Exams

Mock exams form an essential part of the preparation process. Results will help teachers to identify strengths and areas needing improvement, inform targeted intervention, and support decisions about exam entries and estimated grades. They also give students a realistic understanding of what to expect in the final examinations. Mock examinations are incredibly important as students' mock examination grades may be used in the event of major disruption to the public examinations series in accordance with **The JCQ Joint Contingency Plan for the Examination System in England.**

We appreciate your continued support as we work together to ensure that every student feels confident and prepared for their GCSEs. Students and parents will receive the mock examination results at their '**Mock Results Day' on Friday 29th January 2027**; this will enable you the opportunity to have in depth conversations with your child's teachers about their attainment at **Y11 Parents Evening on Tuesday 2nd February 2027**. A detailed report on your child's progress and attainment will be sent out in late February 2027.

If you have any questions about the mock examinations or your child's preparation, please do not hesitate to contact **Miss Humphreys, Head of Year 11** or your child's subject teachers.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs S Barker

Deputy Headteacher

