



The Ripley Academy and Sixth Form

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Head of School: **Mr J de Rijk** BA (Hons)
Deputy Headteacher: **Miss J Scattergood** BEd (Hons)
Deputy Headteacher: **Mrs J Thawley** BSc (Hons)

10th September 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

I am writing to you with regard to the forthcoming Year 11 Mock exams, starting in the two weeks commencing Monday 21st September.

Due to Coronavirus restrictions we will not be holding these exams in the exam hall as is our custom. Instead they will take place in classrooms during lesson time. This means that longer papers may be split over a number of separate lessons and so the exams may not have the same feel as traditional mocks. Equally, I appreciate that students have limited time to prepare for these exams. Nevertheless, the school sees these first set of mocks as particularly important considering the disruption that students have faced to their education due to partial school closures.

Mock exams are always an important step in the on-going revision process that continues throughout Year 11. However, this year we are fully aware that some students will have fallen behind and there will be gaps that have opened up during lockdown in all students' knowledge, skills and understanding. These mocks are vitally important in helping us to identify where the issues lie. We will then be using this information to guide our provision for the rest of the academic year.

Students may feel unprepared and anxious about these exams; that is perfectly natural following the disruption of the last six months. Please could you help to reassure your child that these exams are very much designed to help us simply identify what your child does and doesn't know at this point in time. We will then use this assessment information to help them catch up in those key areas where gaps have opened up. Could you also encourage your child to give these exams their best effort as we need as true and accurate a picture of where students are currently at in terms of their progress.

If you have any queries or concerns, then please do not hesitate to contact us.

As always, many thanks for your continued support in the education of your child.

Yours sincerely

Mr J de Rijk
Head of School

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