CLIFTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL
Middle Lane, Rotherham, S65 2SN
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HEADTEACHER: Mrs M Smith

9th November 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Important Information: Year 11 Mock Examinations (W/C 23rd November – End of Term)

As we prepare for the final stretch of the Autumn term, we are writing to inform you about the upcoming Year 11 mock examination period. Mock exams will begin the **week commencing Monday 23rd November** and will run through to the end of term (exam timetable is attached separately).

These examinations are a critical milestone in your child's Year 11 journey, providing vital practice and preparation ahead of their final GCSE exams next summer. They will also provide evidence of current and predicted attainment that can be shared with colleges, sixth forms and apprenticeship providers as students begin to apply for Post-16 provision.

Mock examinations are far more than just practice tests; they offer direct benefits to help your child succeed:

- **Building Exam Stamina & Familiarity:** Experiencing full-length papers under strict exam conditions helps reduce anxiety and builds confidence for the real GCSEs.
- **Pinpointing Strengths & Knowledge Gaps:** The results give students and teachers precise feedback on which topics need extra focus and revision over the coming months.
- **Mastering Exam Technique:** Students get to practise essential time-management strategies and subject-specific exam techniques under timed conditions.

Prior to the start of the mock period, all students will receive:

1. **An Individual Exam Timetable** showing the exact dates, start times, and durations of each paper.
2. **Exam Seating Arrangements** so they know their exact room allocation and seat number ahead of time.

Please ask your child to keep their timetable safe and check it daily once issued. It will also be emailed to them, along with reminders throughout the examination period.

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How students can prepare at home:

To feel fully prepared and confident entering the exam room, we recommend that students take the following proactive steps starting now:

- **Create a Balanced Revision Timetable:** Divide study time into manageable chunks across all subjects. Spacing out revision is far more effective than last-minute cramming.
- **Speak to Their Subject Teachers:** Ask teachers for topic checklists, specific areas of focus for each paper, and advice on the best subject-specific revision strategies.
- **Use Active Revision Techniques:** Shift away from simply reading notes. Encourage using past papers, flashcards, mind maps, and practice questions to test recall actively.
- **Utilise Available School Resources:** Make full use of subject revision guides, the library as a dedicated revision space, past exam papers (provided in the library), and after-school Period 5 sessions.

How parents and carers can support their child:

Parental support plays a hugely significant role during exam periods. Here are a few practical ways you can support your child over the coming weeks:

- **Establish a Quiet Study Space:** Help create a quiet, well-lit environment free from distractions (especially mobile phones and notifications) during study blocks.
- **Encourage Routine & Rest:** Support a consistent sleep routine and balanced meals to ensure your child remains focused and energised throughout the exam weeks.
- **Help Them Test Themselves:** Quiz them using flashcards or ask them to explain a key topic to you in their own words.
- **Keep Communication Open:** Reassure them that feeling nervous is normal, and encourage them to focus on doing their personal best.

If you have any questions or require further information regarding the mock exam timetable or subject support, please contact the school. Thank you for your continued support and partnership during this important period.

Yours sincerely,

M. L. Smith

Mrs Smith
Headteacher