

Date: 11.10.22



**Kibworth Mead Academy**  
Smeeton Road | Kibworth  
Leicester | LE8 0LG

t. 0116 279 2238  
e. [info@kibworth-tmet.uk](mailto:info@kibworth-tmet.uk)  
w. [www.kibworth-tmet.uk](http://www.kibworth-tmet.uk)

**Executive Principal:** Mr M Oldman

**Principal:** Mr S Piggot

Dear Parent & Student,

## Year 11 Pre-public Exams (mocks) information update

**31<sup>st</sup> October to 16<sup>th</sup> November**

Throughout the year we will continue to update you with any changes to guidance for GCSE exams this academic year which would impact our students.

### Consultation on formula sheets

Currently there is a consultation taking place with the exam boards to decide if students will be allowed formula sheets in GCSE maths and GCSE physics exams. The consultation closes on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

[Proposed changes to the assessment of mathematics, physics and combined science GCSEs in 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/proposals-for-changes-to-the-assessment-of-mathematics-physics-and-combined-science-gcse-in-2023)

We anticipate that this consultation will pass, and students will receive this information in their summer exams. Consequently, we have decided that **we will provide all students with formula sheets for their GCSE maths and GCSE physics papers in their forthcoming mock exams**. Copies are attached and are on the school website.

### Changes to mock exam timetable

There have been some changes to the order in which the November mock exams will take place to better accommodate our students in this exam series to improve the flow and reduce the number of clashes. No extra exams have been added or removed, however the day it takes place for a small number of exams has changed. **Please find attached an updated copy of the exam mock exam timetable, changes are in red.**



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## Equipment

With half term around the corner, this is a good opportunity for students to check they have the correct equipment for their exams.

The equipment list is below. Students who do not have the essential equipment are putting themselves at a disadvantage before they start. I would encourage students to have an exam pack containing their equipment. I know many of the students did this in their Year 10 mock exams.

- **Compulsory:** Black biro pens, pencil, clear 30cm ruler, **pair of compasses, clear protractor**, rubber, pencil sharpener, **scientific calculator**, and coloured pencils for Design & technology.
- **Optional:** Pencil case (must be clear), highlighters

Students are also permitted to take a drink of water into an exam, providing it is in a clear bottle with no labels on it. Any tinted plastic bottle will not be allowed into the exam.

The only items other than those above that are permitted in an exam are door keys and bus passes. Phones will need to be switched off and left in a school bag if they are brought into school by the student. Students are also **not allowed to wear a watch** of any kind (a rule introduced last year).

## Half Term revision

For many students, half term will be a good opportunity to practice their revision skills, using techniques Dr Thompson delivered in assemblies and at the Year 11 Information evening. I would always advocate that balance is the key and that our young people should also prioritise time for themselves in the form of rest and exercise. We recommend that alongside this revision, students use some of the time to reset and refresh getting ready for the longer half term into Christmas.

I would like to thank you in advance for supporting your child through these exams and in their preparation for the mock exams. I am fully aware as parents we can feel just as anxious as our children and do our best to help them in making good decisions about preparation and keeping things in perspective. We are in this together and want our students to succeed putting them in a strong position for the next stage in their education. If you do have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Copies of all the information included with this letter will be placed on the school website.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Stockwell

Vice Principal