

Urmston Grammar School

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Monday 25 September 2023

MOCK TRIAL 2023

Dear Students and Parents,

We are delighted to be writing to you regarding your or your child's participation in the Mock Trial Competition 2023. Your son/daughter has chosen to be part of our, hopefully, winning team in our entry and we would like to take this opportunity to provide information and ensure the required commitments are understood.

What is the Mock trial?

*The Paul Dockery
Schools Mock Trial Competition*

2023 is the 22nd annual competition, excluding the COVID years 2020 and 2021.

The competition used to be named after His Honour Sir Rhys Davies KC, who was the Honorary Recorder of Manchester (senior resident criminal judge) until his early retirement in 2003. He was the first Honorary Recorder of Manchester who allowed the competition to take place. The trophy retains his name. However, this year the decision has been made to rename the competition after Paul Dockery who founded and ran the competition for over twenty years. His passion was not always just the law, but to enable others, from all walks of life, to find a way in to the law as a profession.

Further we are grateful to all the Judges for giving up a Saturday and agreeing to assess student's performances in the competition. They bring reality to the court appearance for all students and supporters.

This year we welcome one new school to the contest, Alderley Edge School for Girls. We wish them an enjoyable and successful stay in the competition.

The Competition would suffer if students did not have the opportunity to play their roles in real courtrooms and see the life of our local criminal courts at first-hand. We remain grateful and wish to thank the Courts Manager and all staff at the courts for their interest, assistance and time in making our contest so enjoyable for all involved and maintaining a healthy environment for us all.

The competition calls upon skills of listening, reasoning and of course, arguing a case by thinking on your feet. For those who take part, the competition will have the lasting value of helping to demystify the law and legal process and demonstrate their importance in a democratic society. The competition is not just about people who want to become lawyers, it's about what the law means in society and what it means to be a citizen involved in the criminal process.

Urmston Grammar School - Headteacher: Mrs R S Wall
pride, participation, empathy

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It is also incredibly good fun whether you take the role of advocate, court official, witness, juror or spectator!

On this special occasion photographs may be taken inside the courtrooms and at the prize-giving ceremony – please read page 10 for more details.

*Daniel Dockery
July 2023*

Commitment

Students will prepare each Wednesday afternoon, during our timetabled Electives session. Meetings will assemble in the Theatre and some independent tasks may be undertaken. In addition to the Electives slot, we will also meet at 4.30-5.30pm on the following dates:

Wednesday 27 September

Wednesday 4 October

Wednesday 18 October

Wednesday 1 November

Wednesday 15 November

Wednesday 22 November- this may be a later finish TBC

Saturday 25 November- Mock Trial Day- Attendance is essential!

We have attached the Mock Trial 2023 guide and the Student Guide to provide further information. We feel sure that students will benefit from this prestigious opportunity and look forward to working with them. Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us hglen@urmstongrammar.org.uk OR jneale@urmstongrammar.org.uk.

Kind Regards

Helen Glen and Jamie Neale
(Head of Drama) (Assistant Head of Sixth Form)

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