

Urmston Grammar School

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19th January 2024

RE: Year 11 February Mocks and National Reference Tests

Dear Year 11 Parents and Carers,

I am writing to provide you with details of the final set of Year 11 Mock Exams before the summer exam season. These will take place the first week after February half term break. As Monday 19th February is an INSET day the first day of assessments will commence on Tuesday 20th February and will extend into the following week. All students will receive their individual mock timetables shortly which will aid them in making suitable preparations. There is no study leave for these mock exams and all students will be expected in their usual timetabled lessons when not sitting a mock exam.

Students will sit a maximum of two exams per day in order to replicate arrangements of the real summer GCSEs. Morning exams will begin at 8.45am and afternoon exams will begin at 1.30pm. Please note this means some afternoon exams will continue beyond the end of the typical school day. Students are encouraged to check their timetables carefully to anticipate when this will occur. I trust this gives sufficient notice for alternative transport home can be arranged if needed.

National Reference Tests (NRTs)

The NRT is a national sample test introduced by the Government in 2016 which measures changes in students' performance over time in GCSE English and Maths. The results provide Ofqual with an objective measure of how Year 11 students in England are performing in these subjects and whether performance has changed compared with previous years.

Urmston Grammar has been randomly selected to participate in the 2024 NRT and we are required by the DfE to engage in this process. The test providers have selected 30 Year 11 students to complete the English assessment, and another 30 to complete the Maths assessment. Each is a 1 hour test paper which will take place on Thursday 29th February – conveniently this falls right at the end of our mock assessment period. The students selected for each NRT will see this included on their personal mock timetable and we will also explain this to them in school. No additional revision or preparation is required for this assessment and so we are hopeful participation will not be a significant inconvenience. More information about the NRT can be found here <http://bit.ly/OfqualNRT>

Many thanks for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L O'Neill
Examinations Officer

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