

ST BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

incorporating

WEST CUMBRIA CATHOLIC SIXTH FORM CENTRE

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Headteacher:
EMMA JACKSON

16th October 2023

Dear Parents / Carers

RE: Key Dates and Examination Information

As we approach the end of the first half term I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some upcoming events and some key dates for the year ahead as we jointly prepare for the GCSE and A level examinations next summer.

Firstly a reminder that Year 11 Parents' evening takes place this Thursday, 19th October. This will take place "face-to-face" in school, however appointments should be made using our online system, for which you should already have received information. This is an important opportunity to talk to your child's teachers about their progress and what they need to do in order to improve and gain the best results possible next summer.

Our Mock exams will take place between 8th January 2024 and 26th January 2024. These mock exams are an important step in the preparation for the final examinations that will take place next summer and will give the students, and you as parents/carers, the best indication yet of the grades they are likely to attain next summer. They will also help identify the subjects and areas where they need to improve. For these to give us the most accurate information it is very important that our students prepare for these as well as they can. Please support the school and your child by talking to them about their mock exams and encouraging and reminding them to revise thoroughly and take these mock exams as seriously as possible. You will be receiving a copy of the mock exam timetable shortly to assist you in planning for these important practice exams.

Because of their importance, after the exams finish, teachers will need to check and moderate the marking and scoring to ensure that they give the most accurate information that they can. To allow this to happen, while teachers may discuss exam papers and areas for improvement with students earlier, **the actual mock grades will only be given out on February 9th 2024**. This will allow us all to start the spring half term with a clear focus in the run up to the final exams.

There are also a small number of examinations taking place in January for BTEC subjects that will count towards the final overall grade. Class teachers will inform students if this affects them and when these will take place.

To help students in years 11 study and prepare for their mock exams, and beyond, the school library is open each evening after school providing a quiet supervised space that students can use for study. Also a number of subjects offer after school revision sessions. Further details of these will be available from class teachers.



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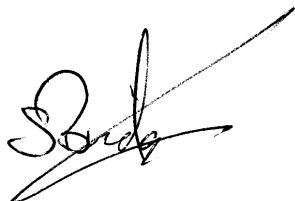
The final examination period runs from **7th May 2024 to 28th June 2024**, with a break for the half term holiday between 25th May and 2nd June. It is worth noting that the examination timetable is not yet confirmed so students must be available for the whole period and holidays etc. **must not be booked in this time**. The school does not have any control over these external examination dates and **it is not possible to rearrange these examinations for any reason** as they are organised for the whole country to take at the same time.

There is often discussion around the idea of “study leave” when examinations take place. Here at St. Benedict’s we believe that the best place for students to prepare for their exams is in their lessons with their class teachers. **As a result there will not be any “study leave” during the mock and external summer examination periods**. For the mock exams in January students are expected to be in school every day as normal and will either be in examinations or normal lessons. For the external exams in the summer students will also be either in examinations or normal lessons until they have finished all of their examinations. When students have completed the examinations in a particular subject they will still attend these lessons but will be able to use the time to study for examinations in other subjects.

The following table summarises the key dates mentioned above

Year 11 Parents’ Evening	Thursday 19 th October 2023
BTEC/Vocational Examinations	January 2024
Mock Examinations	Monday 8 th January 2024 – Friday 26 th January
Mock Results Day	Friday 9 th February 2024
Main Examination Period	Tuesday 7 th May 2024 – 28 th June 2024

Yours faithfully,



Steve Bridgman
Deputy Headteacher