

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 11 Mock Exams – 22nd February – 3rd March.

Our second round of Year 11 mock exams are due to start immediately after half-term, running from 22nd February – 5th March. They are very important, especially in light of the announcement that some sort of teacher assessment will replace end of year exams. To respond to lockdown, we have made the following adjustments:

- The vast majority of students will not come into school for mock exams.
- Some students who are entitled to have a reader for their exams will be invited to come into school to complete their exams if they wish. Parents and carers of these students will receive a separate ParentMail outlining the arrangements for this.
- The timetable is below. Please check carefully, as some subjects have more than one exam.
- Morning exams will start at 10am; afternoon exams will start at 1pm.
- Some subjects (History, Geography, Computer Science) run the same exam twice. Students should attend the exam that is in their Option block. (If they are not sure what option block they are in, they should check the name of the class on Microsoft Teams – a class named 11-B, for example, is in the B option block).
- All exams will be open book. This means that students can use any class notes or work they have during the course of the exam.
- The exam will be placed on Teams at the start of the 'exam' and students will be given a window of time in which to complete the exam and return it to the teacher via Teams.
- If an exam is returned outside of the window of time, it will still be marked. However: please note that mock exams may be one of the key pieces of information we use to determine a teacher assessed grade. As we would not be able to confirm that the student had not used the extra time to add to their answers, we would have to consider late papers a less reliable source of information when determining a teacher assessed grade for their GCSE grade.
- During the mock exam period, the normal timetable is suspended and there will be no live lessons; students are only expected to attend their exams. This is to allow exams longer than a 65-minute period to take place and for students to have a break between exams.
- Normal Teams lessons will resume on Thursday 4th March.
- **Due to the cancellation of the full exam series this summer, is vitally important that students are able to complete these exams.** If your child lacks the devices needed to access their exam papers, please email Mr. Orpin at the school (d.orpin@stjohnfisher.school) – we have a limited number of devices and may be able to supply one. If you are concerned that your child may not be able to complete their exams for any other reason, please email Miss Walker, Deputy Headteacher, at v.walker@stjohnfisher.school.

	<u>Mon 22nd</u>	<u>Tues 23rd</u>	<u>Weds 24th</u>	<u>Thurs 25th</u>	<u>Fri 26th</u>	<u>Mon 1st</u>	<u>Tues 2nd</u>	<u>Weds 3rd</u>
AM (10am start time)	Maths Paper 1 (F&H) 1 hour 30 mins	Religious Education 2 hours	English Language Writer's Viewpoints and Perspectives (paper 2): 1 hour 45 mins	Maths Paper 2 (F&H) 1 hour 30 mins	Combined Science: Chemistry Paper 2 1 hour 15 mins Triple Science: GCSE Chemistry Paper 2 1 hour 45 mins	English Literature A Christmas Carol 50 mins	Combined Science: Physics Paper 2 1 hour 15 mins Triple Science: GCSE Physics Paper 2 1 hour 45 mins	Maths (F&H) Paper 3 1 hour 30 mins
PM (1pm start time)	Combined Science: Biology Paper 2 1 hour 15 mins Triple Science: GCSE Biology Paper 2 1 hour 45 mins	<u>BLOCK B</u> 11B Computer Science Paper 1 Computational Systems 1 hour 30 mins 11B History Henry VIII and his ministers 55 minutes 11B French Paper 1: Listening F – 40 mins H – 50 mins	<u>BLOCK C</u> 11C Geography The Physical Environment 1 hour 30 mins 11C Sociology Education, Crime and Deviance 1 hour 30 mins 11C Physical Education Paper 1: The Human Body and Movement in Physical Activity and Sport 1 hour 15 mins 11C Food and Nutrition 1 hour 45 mins 11C Business Influences of Operations and HRM on Business Activity 1 hour 45 mins	<u>BLOCK A</u> 11A Computer Science Paper 1 Computational Systems 1 hour 30 mins 11A History Henry VIII and his ministers 55 minutes 11A Geography The Physical Environment 1 hour 30 mins	<u>BLOCK C</u> 11C Physical Education Paper 2: Socio-Cultural Influences and Wellbeing in Physical Activity and Sport 1 hour 15 mins 11C Art and Design 2 hours	<u>BLOCK B</u> 11B Computer Science Paper 2 Computational thinking, algorithms and programmes 1 hour 30 mins 11B French Paper 3: Reading F – 45 mins H – 60 mins 11B Product Design 2 hours 11B Health and Social Care Health and Wellbeing 2 hours 11B Drama Understanding Drama 1 hour 45 mins	<u>BLOCK A</u> 11A Computer Science Paper 2 Computational thinking, algorithms and programmes 1 hour 30 mins	<u>BLOCK B</u> 11B French Paper 4: Writing F – 60 mins H – 75 mins

KIT Calls

As parents and carers are aware, we aim to make keeping in touch calls to all our families. We have been unable to contact a few families and will therefore be doing home visits in the week before half-term to safeguard our community. If you have not spoken with us, or have an unreturned voicemail, we would be grateful if you could contact your child's PCL at the school to update them.

Advice for students while we are waiting for confirmation of grading arrangements for Summer 2021:

For those students who were meant to take exams this year, it is really important that they continue to revise, attend online lessons, complete work set on Teams and continue with coursework

assignments if they have them. This will ensure that they are in the best possible situation no matter what happens – whether teachers are asked to predict likely grades again or if exams are replaced with some kind of assessments. Every single piece of work that they complete can make a difference to their final grade.

Mrs. Bailey and Miss Walker have filmed an assembly for Year 10-13 students explaining this in more detail; it can be found on our website at <https://stjohnfisher.school/year-2021-assemblies/>.

Message to all our students who should have been taking exams:

If you are feeling worried or troubled by what has happened/is happening, and would like pastoral support, please contact your Head of Year in the first instance: Mrs. Bailey at e.bailey@stjohnfisher.school or Mr. Armstrong at p.armstrong@stjohnfisher.school. Alternatively, if you have specific questions about exams, please contact Miss Walker at v.walker@stjohnfisher.school.

I would like to reassure you that, whatever the final system for determining grades may be, your teachers, your support staff and the whole school are here to support you in making sure that you can take your next steps.

Book of Condolence / Memory Book

We would like to thank everyone for their very kind messages of condolence so far.

As you know, a book of Condolence is a way for a community to come together to share the grief of a loved one but also to remember and share good memories. To this end, we have now opened a Memory Book in celebration of the time that Mr Darby worked at St John Fisher, giving you and or your child the opportunity to share these memories. Once all memory pieces have been collated into a book it will be presented to the family.

If you or your child would like to contribute, you can do so in the form of words and or images. The memory can be a piece of writing, a poem, a prayer or a piece of artwork, and any style can be adopted to complete the memory piece, for example, pop art or in the style of an artist that your child has researched through their school art projects. Any medium can be embraced to complete this memory piece e.g. pencil, coloured pencils, paint, mixed media or collage, again these would be the mediums your child has used in their creative lesson in school. All memory pieces can be emailed to L.Bennett@stjohnfisher.school, posted to or dropped off at our upper school site (Ordnance Street, Chatham)

The Memory Book will remain open until 22nd February. If you have any questions regarding the Memory Book, please contact L.Bennett@stjohnfisher.school or alternatively you can access our Microsoft TEAMS Chaplaincy page that your child has access to.

I would like to remind you that all information relating to remote learning, including how our provision works, how students should access their lessons, and videos explaining these processes can be found here: <https://stjohnfisher.school/teaching-and-learning/>

Medway Council survey of young people's experience of lockdown

Medway Council invites our pupils and parents to take part in an online survey. Please use the following link to participate in the survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/2021MedwayLockdown>

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Lockdowns can be very difficult in terms of both mental and physical health. I would like to signpost the following part of our website that contains a variety of resources to support mental health and well-being: <https://stjohnfisher.school/mental-health-and-wellbeing/>

Children of Critical Workers and Vulnerable Children

We continue to offer face-to-face provision for children of critical workers and vulnerable children. Please only send your children in to school if absolutely necessary. Provision for students attending school will be on Ordnance Street Site; students should arrive through the Perry Street Gate at 9am in the morning and will leave through the same gate at 3pm (2pm on Wednesdays). Lower Site will be closed during this period. Students are expected to bring in their own food and drink, apart from those students in receipt of free school meals, for whom we will provide a packed lunch.

Due to the high level of COVID transmission in Medway, all students and staff will be required to wear masks at **all** times. We will provide these for students who do not have them.

Lateral Flow Testing for children attending school.

You will have seen in the news that all schools have been provided with equipment to carry out quick turnaround lateral flow tests for COVID 19. We are currently testing all staff that attend the school site on each day and testing all pupils that attend Keyworker and Vulnerable pupil provision. With the number of people testing positive for COVID 19 across the country (and especially in the Medway area), the number of people in hospital, and sadly, the number of people dying, it is vitally important that we use these tests to prevent the spread of the virus.

The consent form and further information can be found here:

<https://stjohnfisher.school/support-during-covid-19-period/>

I would ask that if you are intending to send your child to school as part of the vulnerable/key worker provision that you either print off a hard copy of this form, complete it, and send it in to school with your child on Monday **or** copy and paste the completed form into an email and send it to a.norman@stjohnfisher.school. This form has been provided by the DfE and has not been changed by the school.

If the test result indicates that your child has tested positive for COVID 19, you will be informed and asked to collect your child from school. You will also receive a PCR test that can be completed at home and sent in the post to receive a confirmatory result.

Engagement of students in Remote Learning

This week we have begun sending automated emails home linked to engagement. In the first week we have already sent hundreds of positive emails to praise the excellent engagement of our students in their learning. We do recognise that working remotely is not easy, however, we must inform you if your child is missing learning opportunities. If this is the case you will receive an email similar to the one below, it is not intended as a punishment or criticism, but just to alert you that there some learning has been missed, and hopefully to prompt a discussion with your child and/or with the school.

'St John Fisher School – SchoolVue Sanction Alert

Engagement concern for Name of Pupil for possible lack of engagement in remote learning. Your child has recently missed at least two live lessons/assignment submissions. We understand that remote learning is extremely challenging, but we wanted to let you know that your child has missed some learning opportunities. If you would like to discuss this further, please get in touch with your child's PCL or Head of Year.'

I would like to stress that we are required to provide you with this information and recognise that in many cases you and your child will be working very hard. Please do not view it as a reprimand but as information that you may wish to follow up. The reference to sanction reflects the limitations of the platform that we are using to deliver these notifications, and I would like to reassure you that there are no negative consequences associated with receiving this message.

Devices and Internet

Devices

If your child does not have access to a device in order to attend remote learning opportunities, please contact Mr Orpin at the school on d.orpin@stjohnfisher.school to make a request. We have a **limited number of devices** provided by the government and may be able to provide one, **should your child meet certain criteria**. We are working hard to ensure everybody who requires a device to engage with remote learning receives one.

Microsoft Teams can be accessed on a wide variety of devices. It can be accessed through computers, tablets and phones and can also be accessed through games consoles including Xbox (One and Series X) and PlayStation (4 & 5). The link below is for a YouTube video explaining how an Xbox or PlayStation can be used to access MS Teams.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mfrSCeedsmE&safe=active>

Internet

We are aware that some parents will not have access to traditional wired broadband and will be accessing the internet via a mobile device. The DfE has recently introduced a scheme by which mobile customers on certain networks can gain access to free additional data during the lockdown period. I include a list of the providers and the conditions below. If you subscribe to one of these networks and **do not** have access to a traditional broadband network, please email i.jordan@stjohnfisher.school with the following information:

SUBJECT LINE: INTERNET

- Name of Child
- Name of Account Holder
- Mobile number (for the account that should receive extra data)
- Mobile Network
- Contract or Pay as you Go.

This data will be submitted by the school and you will receive a notification from your provider once the additional data is activated. A number of these networks have caps in places for these offers and it should be noted that additional data is at the discretion of the mobile operator, not the school.

If you do not have wired broadband and the above offers will be of no help, please email i.jordan@stjohnfisher.school using the subject line INTERNET.

Please include the name of the child, confirmation that you do not have access to wired broadband and a brief outline of your remote learning circumstances. There is the ability for the school to apply for mobile broadband 'dongles' through the DfE.

These devices are subject to certain criteria that are outside of the school's control. You will be notified if the school's application on your behalf has been successful.

Year 10 Virtual Parents' Consultation Evening – Wednesday 10th February 4-7pm

The Year 10 Parents' Consultation Evening will take place on Wednesday 10th February. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this will be a virtual event, with parents and carers meeting teachers via an online platform rather than coming into school.

The Parents' Consultation evening booking is live, and parents are encouraged to book their appointment with subject teachers from the 29th of January. This is an important opportunity to discuss your child's progress and attainment with subject teachers who will be available between 4-7pm. We look forward to seeing you at the Year 10 Virtual Parents' Consultation Evening.

Further information on how the Parents' Consultation Evening will run will follow in a separate letter.

Online Assemblies

Mrs Bennett would like to remind you that our online whole school prayer, reflection and assembly can be accessed by going to our school website.

Sixth Form

We have started our sixth form interviews for students who have already applied. It is delightful to spend time talking with our students discussing how the excellent teaching and bespoke programmes in our sixth form can help them realise their future aspirations

If your son/daughter has not applied to our sixth form, we are still accepting applications from SJF students and an application form can be found on our school website: www.stjohnfisher.school. However, we have already received over 100 applications and these students will be interviewed first. Late applications will be considered if there are still places available following these interviews.

During these changing and difficult times it is important that we look forward to the future. Joining SJF Sixth Form will start to put in place plans for your son/daughters' education for after Year 11 and allow them to achieve their ambitions.

National Apprenticeship Week 2021 (A message from Mr O'Halloran)

As was mentioned in last week's parent mail National Apprenticeship Week 2021 will take place from 8th to 14th February. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the exciting things that our students will be able to take part in.

This will be a fantastic opportunity for any students who may be interested in pursuing an apprenticeship in the future or have questions about apprenticeships to engage with apprentices and employers.

Below is just a selection of events taking place:

Telent Technology are getting ready to open up their application process for their Apprenticeship Schemes 2021 and would like to invite you to join their *Live event* to learn more about what they do and how an apprenticeship with Telent could be what you are looking for!!

About Telent:

Telnet has a great heritage and a distinctive company culture built on Service, Commitment and Value. We specialise in the effective operation of critical national infrastructure and are at the heart of many of the UK's and Ireland's best-known brands. We design, deliver and support solutions and services which enable organisations to create, improve and operate the ICT and communication networks that their businesses depend on. Our industry expertise, technology partnerships, accreditations and committed teams make Telnet the partner of choice for organisations at the forefront of the digital revolution.

What will the session cover:

The session will introduce Telnet, discuss what students can gain from the apprenticeship pathway, provide valuable key hints and tips on how to get the right apprenticeship, and feature talks from our current and past apprentices (showing how apprenticeships are a great option for people of every background. We will also introduce our 2021 opportunities for those students who may be considering a programme this year.

Date: 9th February 2021

Time: 10am – 11am

Delivery: Through Microsoft Teams

Age: 14+

Expiration date: 05/02/2021

How to Apply: Click on the attached PDF flyer and complete the form

This event will be recorded and be available to watch anytime from the 11th of February 2021.

Morgan Sindall Construction are offering a variety of webinars and podcasts regarding apprenticeships in the construction industry. From quantity surveyors to site managers, they offer a range of excellent opportunities within the construction industry nationwide.

To those of you interested in learning more please use the links in the attached flyers to sign up and take part.

The Kent & Medway Enterprise Adviser Network are inviting you to a **live stream event**, focusing on apprenticeships and skills employers are looking for in their future employees.

This virtual event is aimed at young people from Years 9 and upwards. Parents, carers and staff are welcome to join in too.

The My Future Apprenticeship event will be broadcast live on **Wednesday 10th February 12 - 1.35pm** and we'll be joined by our partners from **Pfizer, Holiday Extras, NHS, the BBC and more**. Attendees can put their questions to the panellists using the live chat function.

To access the live stream you MUST [register HERE for My Future Apprenticeships](#). Before joining, be sure to [check system requirements](#) to avoid any connection issues. A recording of the event will be available afterwards.

University College London are delighted to announce an extensive schedule of immersive career experience programmes for ages 12-18 this term. Your children will have the opportunity to:

- Work alongside experienced professionals in live simulations, role-plays and seminars
- Network with senior doctors, engineers, lawyers, psychologists, artists, filmmakers, UN staff, investment bankers and many more
- Gain life-changing, interactive career experiences to advance their future

If your children decide to attend our in-person programmes after Easter, we can assure you we have strict COVID measures in place.

Please see the relevant attached flyer for the link to sign up.

Daniel O'Halloran
Careers leader

A Message from Medway's Public Health Team

Tackling Cheap Tobacco in Medway Cheap tobacco comes at a price to our young people in Medway. Its 'pocket money' price makes it more affordable and appealing to young children to start smoking. There is also a risk to children being drawn into other criminal activities, as sellers of cheap tobacco are often linked to organised crime groups. Medway Council's Public Health team is working with partners to remove cheap tobacco from the streets of Medway and to protect our young people.

This year we have removed over 214,780 cigarettes and 48.95kg of hand rolling tobacco from shops in Medway. This was a great success, but there is still more to do and we need your help to prevent cheap tobacco reaching young children in the first place. If you know where cheap tobacco is sold please let us know via our online form.

It is completely anonymous and quick to complete: online reporting form.

Any information is much appreciated, and vital in helping us taking action to protect young children in Medway!

Medway Libraries' Schools and Families Update

Libraries are open for Click and Collect

You can still click and collect books, DVDs, audiobooks and jigsaws from a library of your choice. You can do this in two ways:

- Call 01634 337799 with your library card number ready
- Log in to your [library account online](#) or on the Spydus app ([Android](#), [iPhone](#)), and reserve your item(s) from the catalogue

All library loans are quarantined for 72+ hours on return.

You will need your library card number and PIN. You can [reset you PIN here](#). Please get in touch if you have any problems accessing your account. You can [join the library online here](#).

Thank You

Thank you once again for all your efforts this week. You are making such an amazing difference to your children by your hard work and efforts to help them and work in partnership with us as teachers. We are in this together and we will get through this as a strong and caring community. I will continue to communicate each week by Parentmail and please also check our website for more details.

God Bless,

Mrs. Lennon