Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College
Stakes Hill Road
Waterlooville
Hampshire
PO7 7BW

☎ 023 9225 9214
www.oaklandscatholicschool.org
oaklands@oaklandscatholicschool.org

Executive Headteacher: Richard Cunningham BA (Jt Hons), PGCE (Cantab), MSc, CMgr, FCMI
Head of School: Amy Bonnington BA (Hons), PGCE, MA

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23rd October 2026

Year 11 Mock Examinations – Wednesday 25th November to Friday 11th December

Dear Parent/Carer of students in Year 11,

I am writing to inform you of arrangements relating to the forthcoming Year 11 mock examinations and to emphasise the importance of these assessments as students begin the final stages of their GCSE courses.

The mock examination period provides students with an invaluable opportunity to experience formal examination conditions, identify areas of strength and areas requiring further development and prepare effectively for their summer examinations.

These examinations are also significant because the results are often used to support post-16 applications, including applications to sixth forms, colleges, apprenticeships and training providers. Mock examination outcomes help these institutions understand a student's current attainment and potential. The timetable can be found at the end of this letter.

In addition, whilst we sincerely hope they are never needed for this purpose, robust evidence from mock examinations can play an important role in exceptional circumstances. Recent years have shown that examination arrangements can sometimes change unexpectedly and schools may be required to draw upon a range of assessment evidence. Similarly, should a student experience a serious illness or other unforeseen circumstance affecting their summer examinations, mock examination results may form an important part of the evidence available to awarding bodies.

Following the Year 10 examinations earlier this year, we also reflected carefully on students' preparation and performance. Whilst many students worked hard and achieved well, there were occasions where some students relied too heavily on online sources, social media discussions or AI-generated responses when preparing for assessments. This can sometimes create a misleading picture of understanding and, ultimately, does not support long-term success. Students who engage fully with their learning, practise independently and develop their own knowledge and skills are far better prepared for the demands of GCSE examinations.

This was highlighted further in the Maths assessment completed after the summer holiday, where many students saw a decline in performance compared with earlier assessments. This serves as a timely reminder that knowledge and skills need to be revisited regularly and that consistent study over time is far more effective than last-minute revision or reliance on the previously mentioned sources.

Parents and carers can play a crucial role in supporting students during this important period. We would encourage you to:

- Help your child establish a regular revision timetable well in advance of the examinations.
- Encourage revision to take place in a quiet space free from distractions such as mobile phones and social media.

- Ask your child to explain what they have revised, as discussing knowledge is a powerful way of strengthening understanding.
- Encourage the use of revision materials provided by teachers through Teams and Class Charts.
- Support good routines, including regular sleep, healthy eating and attendance at school.
- Ensure students have the necessary equipment for examinations, including pens, pencils, rulers, calculators and any other required items.
- Encourage independence and resilience by allowing students to complete practice questions and revision tasks themselves rather than relying on online answers.

All subjects will provide clear guidance on the content students should revise and this information will be shared through Teams and Class Charts.

During the mock examination period, I will use the Year 11 Team to communicate important practical arrangements, including seat numbers, examination venues and start times. Students should therefore monitor this Team regularly throughout the examination period.

Results of the examinations will be shared with students and parents in January and will provide an important basis for discussions at the Year 11 Parents' Evening.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. The partnership between home and school is vital and we are grateful for all that you do to help our students achieve their very best.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Gorman – Assistant Head of School

	Session 1 - 9:20	Session 2 - 11:45	Session 3 - 2:20
Wed 25/11 (W2)	**English Literature** Paper 1 Shakespeare & 19th Century novel 1h45m	**RE** Judaism 1h	
		RE Short Course Christian beliefs, Judaism and Peace & Conflict 1h30m	
Thu 26/11 (W2)	**Maths** Paper 1 Non-Calculator 1h30m	**Media** Exploring the Media 1h30m	
		PE Physical Factors affecting performance 1h	
		PE (Mr Neil's group) NCFE Sport Studies 1h30m	
Fri 27/11 (W2)	**Science Biology** Paper 2 1h15m (Triple Paper 1 1h45m)	**Child Development NEA**	**Child Development NEA**
		Computer Science 1h30m	
Mon 30/11 (W1)	**History** Paper 1 America 1920-1973 & Cold War 1945-1972 2h	**Geography** Physical 1h	
Tue 1/12 (W1)	**Science Chemistry** Paper 1 1h15m (Triple Paper 1 1h45m)	**Media** Understanding Media Forms and Products 1h30m	
		PE Socio-cultural issues in Sport 1h	
Wed 2/12 (W1)	**Maths** Paper 2 Calculator **1h30m**	**Food** Principles of Food Preparation and Nutrition 1h45m	
Thu 3/12 (W1)	**Photography** (11Z Class) A6	**Photography** (11Z Class) A6	**Photography** (11Z Class) A6
	Textiles A5	**Textiles** A5	**Textiles** A5
	Business 1h45m	**Drama** Understanding Drama 1h45m	
		Music 1h30m	
Fri 4/12	**Photography** (11Z Class) A6	**Photography** (11Z Class) A6	**Photography** (11Z Class) A6
	Textiles A5	**Textiles** A5	**Textiles** A5
Mon 7/12 (W2)	**Science Physics** Paper 1 1h15m (Triple Paper 1 1h45m)	**Geography** Human 1h	
Tue 8/12 (W2)	**French & Spanish** Foundation Reading 45m and then Listening 45m	**History** Paper 2 Health and the People 1h	
	French & Spanish Higher Reading 1h and then Listening 1h		
Wed 9/12 (W2)	**Photography** (11Y Class) A6	**Photography** (11Y Class) A6	**Photography** (11Y Class) A6
	Art (11Y class) A7	**Art** (11Y class) A7	**Art** (11Y class) A7
	French & Spanish Foundation Writing 1h15m	**Resistant Materials** 2h	
	French & Spanish Higher Writing 1h20m	**Electronics** 2h	
Thu 10/12 (W2)	**Photography** (11Y Class) A6	**Photography** (11Y Class) A6	**Photography** (11Y Class) A6
	Art (11Y class) A7	**Art** (11Y class) A7	**Art** (11Y class) A7
Fri 11/12 (W2)	**Design and Technology NEA Day**		

Food practical: 11Y will have their practical mock exam on Wed 7th Nov; 11X will be on Thu 8th Nov.

Language Speaking Mocks: These will take place during the week beginning 16th Nov. Your Language teacher will give you details of your exam nearer the time.

Missed Papers: We will attempt to run some catch up sessions for students who have missed papers. If you know you have missed a paper, speak to Mr Gorman and we can arrange to sit them earlier if there is an exam taking place that you are not involved in.