

Our Ref: 019/18

31st January 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

As you are aware the GCSE exams are fast approaching and in order to identify how we can effectively support your son, he will be completing three additional mock exams in each of the sciences: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. We have scheduled these to take place during Science lessons in the first week back after half term alongside the already scheduled Maths and English assessments (the week beginning Monday 19th February). It is paramount that these mocks are taken seriously as they will be the last piece of information that we can use to determine tier entry for the final exams in May/June.

There are many resources available that your son can use for revision in addition to his class exercise book and these include:

- www.gcsepod.com, a website that contains lots of revision videos that are tailored to the AQA specification. Pupils have been given logins in class and their teacher can reset their passwords if they have forgotten them.
- www.kerboodle.com, which has access to a digital copy of the class textbook which also includes lots of practice questions. Again, the class teacher can reset the password if you are having problems with access.
- www.bbc.com/education which you may well be familiar with as BBC Bitesize.

Pupils can also access resources on the examination board website, including the specification and a number of sample resources. The relevant web address is <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse>.

If you want to purchase a revision guide we may be able to source these for you at a reduced rate; if you are interested please let me or your son's class teacher know.

The new GCSEs are very demanding because the specifications contain a great deal more content than previous qualifications, and the papers contain very challenging questions. I cannot stress enough how vital it is that all homework is completed every week and any preparations for mock exams or smaller, weekly class quizzes are taken seriously.

If you have any concerns or questions about these mocks, access to resources or your son's progress please feel free to contact me by email at cmanwaring@stmargaretsacademy.com. I will be available to respond to emails over the half term week so if you need usernames or password resets just let me know.

Yours faithfully

Dr Carmel Manwaring
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