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# THE COOPERS' COMPANY AND COBORN SCHOOL

*Love as Brethren*

Headteacher: Ms Sue Hay, BA(Hons), PGDip, NPQH

St Mary's Lane, Upminster, Essex RM14 3HS

| Tel: 01708 250500 | Email: [info@cooperscoborn.org.uk](mailto:info@cooperscoborn.org.uk) | Website: [www.cooperscoborn.org.uk](http://www.cooperscoborn.org.uk) |

September 2020

Dear Parent / Guardian,

**Re: Year 13 Mock Exams – 5<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020 (inclusive)**

I hope that you are well and your family are safe and well. I would like to take this opportunity in welcoming back your son / daughter back into what will be their last year at the school entering into year 13.

As stated on the school calendar, the Year 13 mock examination period will run from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October (inclusive). During this period, all Year 13 students will follow the mock examination timetable, which can be found on the school website.

Enclosed is your child's individual exam timetable (pink sheet) which students should keep in a safe place for future reference. Those students, who are timetabled to undertake the Art practical exam, please discuss arrangements directly with Mr. Withyman.

It is vital that your child reads, fully understands and **strictly** adheres to all exam protocol as set by JCQ (Joint Council for Qualifications) as failure to do so could lead to disqualification. This information can be found on the exams link located on the school's website:-

<http://www.cooperscoborn.co.uk/Examinations>

As the end of year exams were cancelled back in March as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and further to the events in the summer with awarding GCSE and A-level results it is more important than ever for students to be tested on their subject knowledge in an exam environment for the following reasons:-

- Mock exams are a useful tool for students, teachers and parents to measure how well students are progressing in their studies.
- It allows students an opportunity to work under exam-like conditions and test how well their revision strategies are working.
- For the school, it is a useful indication of how likely a student is to achieve a certain grade in the "real" exams and therefore a benchmark on whether to review a set of results in the summer.
- Students wishing to apply to university, mock exams will help determine UCAS grades.
- In light of the recent pandemic, mock data, along with other historic data on students assisted teaching staff to make holistic judgements when submitting centre-assessed grades and rank orders to the exam boards to enable students to receive either their GCSE or A-level results in the summer.
- Mr. Bell and Mrs. Marshall have reiterated the above points to the year group on numerous occasions.

The above are just examples of the importance of hosting mock exam periods and this year, it is even more important than ever for students to be tested on their knowledge in a test environment.

These examinations are referred to as 'mock' since they are an attempt to duplicate the situation that will arise when all Year 13 students take their external examinations scheduled in May and June 2021, the dates and times of which are yet to be confirmed by the exam boards. Your support to ensure that your son or daughter is fully focused and prepared for these mock exams is greatly appreciated. Despite the fact that they are effectively a practice, it is paramount that preparation for them is sound, since the results can affect the estimation of likely performance when informing on predicted grades.

Staff will be working hard to mark the mocks throughout October/November so that your son/daughter receives detailed feedback as soon as possible. We will then have the opportunity to talk through with you the mock results, future testing periods and final strategies to prepare for the summer at the virtual Parents' Evening scheduled on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> December.



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Attendance is compulsory and all students will be expected in school at the commencement of the school day. No study leave will be given during this time, as it is critical that students attend all lessons when they do not have mock examinations.

During these times, it is essential that all students come to school fully equipped for sitting these exams since we are unable to lend essential equipment. Students are expected to arrive at least 20 minutes before the stated start time for each of their exams. Students will not be allowed to leave the exam until the full time duration has lapsed.

Please notify the exams office as soon as possible, should your child be unable to attend a mock examination for whatever reason. Should you have any queries regarding the contents of this letter, please feel free to contact either Mrs. Titley or Mrs. Butler in the exams team.

Thank you for your continued support and we wish all the students well in this stage of their academic career.

Yours faithfully,

**Mrs. A. Titley**

Examinations and Data Manager

**Encs.** Your child's personal exam timetable (pink sheet)