FAMILIES BULLETIN
10 October



📝 Mock Exam Guide for Parents: What You Need to Know

Year 11 mock exams start the week of 17th November.

These practice exams are a key part of preparing for the real GCSEs. They will help your child get used to exam conditions, spot areas they need to work on, and build confidence.

Your support can make a big difference. Here's how you can help your child prepare and stay positive during this important time.

1. Start Early

By now, your child should be revising regularly. Starting revision before the mocks gives them time to cover everything without stress. Early revision helps avoid cramming and gives space to go over tricky topics more than once.

2. Stick to a Revision Timetable

Your child has already created a revision timetable in school. You can help by:

- Encouraging them to break subjects into smaller topics.
- Making sure they include breaks, hobbies, and rest.
- Putting the timetable somewhere visible (like the fridge or bedroom wall).
- Helping them adjust their timetable if needed.

A realistic plan helps them stay on track without feeling overwhelmed.

3. Focus on the Right Subjects

It's natural for students to spend more time on subjects they enjoy—but it's important to focus on the ones they find harder too.

- Look at their Year 10 report: which subjects are below target?
- Prioritise Maths and English—these are essential for college, sixth form, and future pathways.
- Encourage variety to keep motivation up.

4. Use Different Revision Techniques

Reading notes isn't enough. In school, students learn four key revision strategies:

- **Past papers & practice questions** – great for exam technique.
- **Self-quizzing** – helps test what they know.
- **Flashcards** – useful for memorising facts.
- **Mind maps & diagrams** – ideal for visual learners.

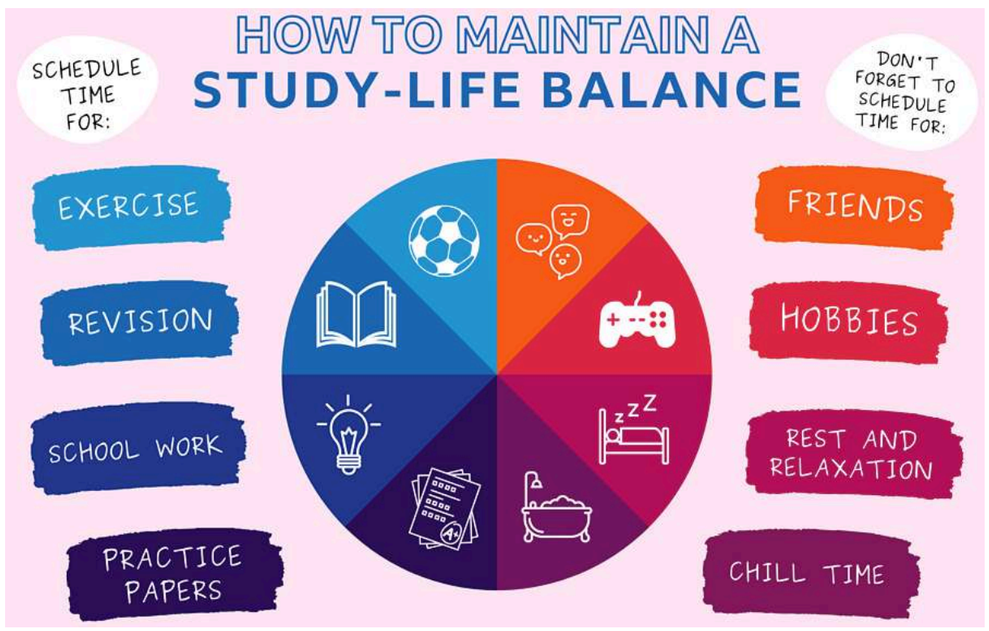
Let your child try different methods to see what works best for them.

5. Keep a Healthy Balance

Revision is important, but so is wellbeing. Help your child to:

- Get fresh air and exercise.
- Eat well and stay hydrated.
- Sleep for around 8 hours a night.
- Take time to relax and see friends.

A balanced routine helps them stay focused and feel good.



6. Review and Reflect

As the mocks get closer, encourage your child to:

- Review what they've learned.
- Do timed practice exams.
- Learn from mistakes and feedback.

After the mocks, go through their results together. Focus on what they've learned—not just the grades.

7. Be Supportive

Your role is to encourage. Remind your child:

- Mocks are for practice, not perfection.
- Mistakes are part of learning.
- Effort matters more than results.

Celebrate their hard work and keep communication open.

💬 Final Thoughts

Mock exams are a stepping stone to GCSE success. With good planning, healthy habits and your support, your child can approach them with confidence.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

Mr Drumm
Assistant Headteacher (Years 10 and 11)

Year 11 Looking Ahead Post-16 Options

Dear Parents/Carers,

As Year 11 students navigate a significant year in their secondary education, it becomes crucial for them and their families to consider their post-16 options carefully. This period is defined not only by academic transitions but also by significant choices that will shape students' futures. Within the Royal Borough of Greenwich, families have access to a variety of pathways, including sixth forms, colleges, and vocational training, which cater to diverse interests and career ambitions.

To assist in making informed decisions, it is essential for families to engage in thorough research regarding the options available. Attending open events is a crucial step in this process, providing students and their families with first-hand insights into the academic environment, available courses, and support services. These events not only allow prospective students to meet teachers and current students but also to ask questions that can clarify any uncertainties.

Below is a list of Open Events that are still available to families.

Post-16 Provider	**Open Events**
Eltham Hill School	Thursday 16th October from 5-7pm. External students must come with an adult
Halley Academy Sixth Form College	Thursday 20th November, 5-6.30pm.
Harris Academy Greenwich	Wednesday 12th November 5-7pm
Leigh Academy Blackheath	Thursday 13th November 5-7pm
Newhaven Kings Park	Wednesday 22 October 10-2pm
Plumstead Manor Sixth Form	Thursday 6th November 5-8pm Tickets must be booked via Eventbrite. All external students will be required to wear their school uniform, unless accompanied by adult family members
St Mary Magdalene Sixth Form	Wednesday 22 October 4.30-6pm To book use the following link: RSVP Form
The John Roan School	Wednesday 26th November 5-7.00pm
Thomas Tallis School Post 16 Centre	Wednesday 15th October 5-8.00pm Students must come with an adult
Woolwich Polytechnic Boys School	Monday 3rd November For external students 4.15pm - 6.30pm Tickets must be booked via Eventbrite. All external students will be required to wear their school uniform, unless accompanied by adult family members.
London South East Colleges	Thursday 16 October 5-7.30pm Tuesday 24 February 5-7.30pm Saturday 27 June 10am-1pm All events are live on our website so pupils are able to register here: Events at London South East Colleges
Shooters Hill Sixth Form College	Thursday 6 November 4.30-6.30pm Wednesday 14 January 4.30-6.30pm Thursday 12 March 4.30-6.30pm Thursday 11June 4.30-6.30pm

Mr Dalby
Head of Year 11

Year 11 Information Evening

It was wonderful to see so many families attend our Year 11 Information Evening on Thursday 25th September. This was a great opportunity to access our skilled staff directly for all of the key information required to support your child this year. For those that could not attend, we have attached all of the PowerPoints used on the evening.

The following areas were covered:

- An overview of the Maths and English curriculums, including support that is available to families and the best way to support students to reach a 4 or more.
- Sixth Form and how this differs to college. We also covered entry requirements, the importance the mock exams play in the application process and common pitfalls when applying.
- Study skills, including our Core 4 strategies and how to set the appropriate study environment at home.
- Key dates for Year 11 across the year.

We look forward to collaborating more this year to support your child through this significant year of their journey.

Mr Dalby
Head of Year 11

Year 7 Meet the Tutor Event

Dear Families,

It is hard to believe that your child has almost completed their first term at RGTS; with this in mind we, would like to invite you to our **Year 7 Meet the Tutor Event** on **Thursday 16th October**. The purpose of this event is to allow you to meet your child's form tutor or a key member of the KS3 inclusion team.

This meeting will focus on how your child has **transitioned to secondary school and the support package that has been in place for them**. This will also be an opportunity for you to ask any questions that you may have and there will be materials for you to take away.

Throughout the course of the evening there will also be an opportunity for you attend **small informative sessions** on the following areas:

- Reading/literacy at RGTS for Year 7
- How best to support your child with English
- How best to support your child with Maths
- Parental use of homework platforms and the Arbor app
- Visit our Compass Centre

To book your appointment you can sign in to the Parent Portal or the Parent Arbor App. Further information on how to book your appointments can be found here: Booking Guardian Consultations (Parent's Evenings) on the Parent Portal or Parent App

If you are unable to attend the event, you can email info@rgtrustschool.net or alternatively you can call 0208 312 5480 and arrange a separate appointment at later date with your child's form tutor.

We look forward to seeing you at the event.

Mrs Sirso
Head of Year 7

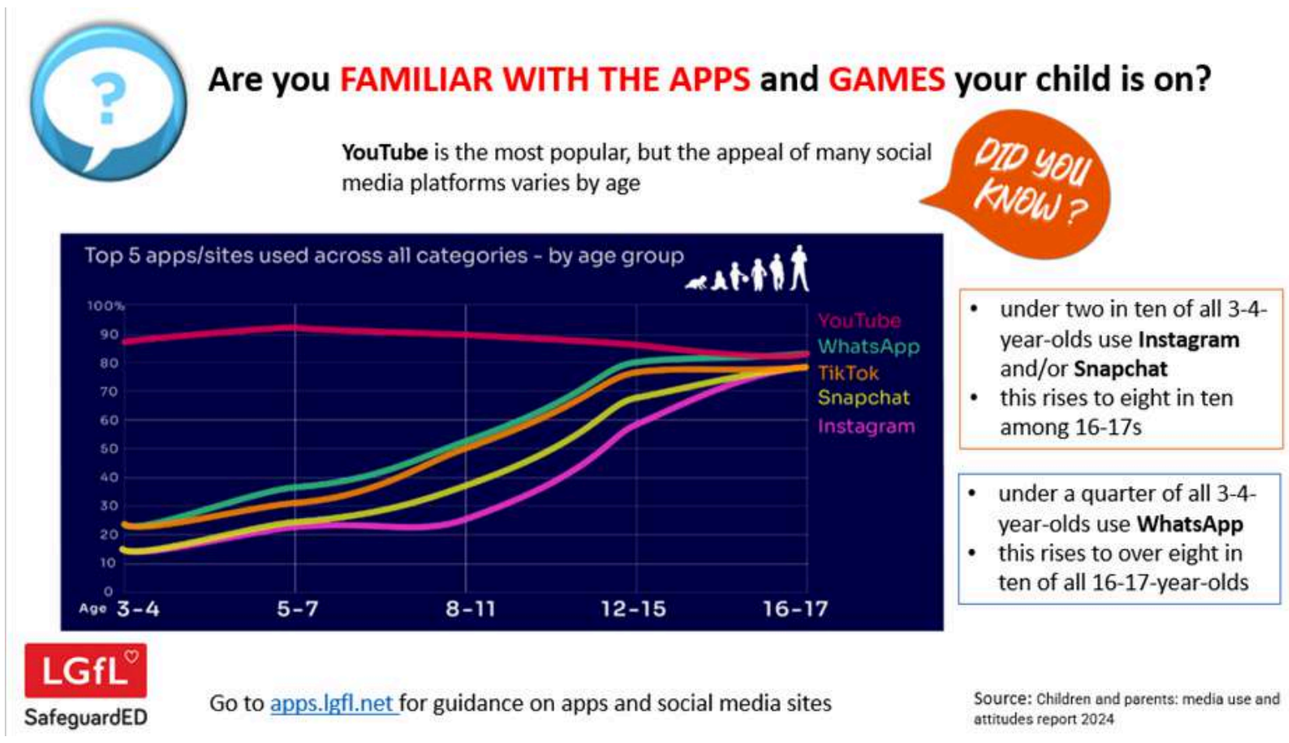
Safeguarding - Online Safety

Once upon a time, to conduct research, you would have had to go to your local library to get access to the book or resource that you needed. The online library, made up of millions if not billions of resources, has brought the library to us and somehow evened accessibility. The benefits of being online can therefore not be ignored. Unfortunately, there is also a negative side to being online; especially when it comes to profiles being targeted with negative, unkind and unprovoked comments and threats. At RGTS, we take the online safety of our school community seriously and support our pupils as best we can. Please speak to your child(ren) about how they can keep themselves safe online by:

·Speaking to you when incidents happen
·Blocking the account/profile of the perpetrator
·Using the report button/feature on the social media platform to report the incident
·Reporting the incident to their Head of Year.

Why does this matter?

Young people **can get around age restrictions** on apps and websites, increasing the risk of them coming to harm online. Many children have online profiles that make them appear older than they actually are – exposing them to **content inappropriate for their age**. **Addictive algorithms can make it harder to take a break** and maintain a healthy balance between time on and offline. Algorithms can also target content similar to what you've already selected/liked/shared. This can prevent you from finding new ideas and perspectives, create **misinformation** and **reinforce stereotypes**.







To support parents, The London Grid for Learning has developed a parent specific portal. Please access this using the following link - https://parentsafe.lgfl.net/

Mr Asafo Adjei Jnr
Assistant Headteacher - Safeguarding (DSL) and Attendance

Curriculum Spotlight: Science



Dear Families,

We have had an exciting start in Science and would like to share with you some of our highlights from this year and changes to our curriculum.

Since September, our students having been getting used to our new way of working in Science. Our new and improved method involves our students **doing more and remembering more**. We have increased the rigour in our Science lessons, with a greater focus on students completing tasks t**o show what they know**.

Our method is designed to improve their grit and through teamwork, ensure their success.

Key Stage 3: Developing a love for Science

At KS3, our focus is on students developing a love for Science. This includes exposure to an increased number of practicals, reading outside the content area -with a Scientist spotlight feature at least once a half term. We are also looking at introducing a project-style homework which students will complete once a term. We are hoping this approach will encourage students to work independently, engage in research and harness their creative skills in bringing alive all aspects of STEM.

We are encouraging students not just to **work like a scientist**, but to **think like a scientist** . We are also encouraging students to **develop skills not just acquire knowledge**.



Key Stage 4: Getting ready for GCSE

Our Year 10s and 11s have hit the ground running and are immersed in GCSE preparation. All Year 11s have been advised to log onto Teams, where resources have been provided for them to aid in their preparation for their upcoming mock exams. These resources include videos, summary notes and links to AQA past papers.

In lessons, all KS4 students are completing exam-style questions and are being taught how to achieve top marks on their exams.

Masterclasses for some Year 11s began this week. While not all students have been selected, students have been chosen based on where the greatest needs have been identified from the Year 10 exams.

For our Year 11s, students in XSc1, XSc2, YSc1 and YSc2 will be doing the Higher exam, while those in XSc3 and YSc3 will be doing the foundation exam for the mocks.

Students at both Year 10 and 11 will be regularly assessed to allow our teachers to be able to readily identify where the gaps are and to close these.

Revision Tips



Homework

Currently, students at all year groups are receiving bespoke Homework from their teachers. We will be streamlining this over the next few weeks, for an electronic method of Homework to be launched after the half-term.

All Year 11s are engaged in knowledge quizzes for homework focused on the content they need to know for their exams. These are also uploaded to Teams, alongside the mark schemes so students can complete independent practice and revision.

What can you do to support your child?

To help us help your child/ward, please check with your child that they have completed their homework and are ready to submit it to their class teacher.

If you have a child in Year 11, ensure they are logging onto Teams to use the revision resources that have been provided.

You can also create for yourself and your child an account on www.senecalearning.com, where your child can engage in bespoke practice on GCSE content.

Other useful sites for you are:

For all key stages, www.bbcbitesize.co.uk

For years 10 and 11, www.physicsandmathstutor.com

Videos that help your child: on Youtube, type in 'free science lessons'. Three to five minute videos are there to help your child with Science content revision. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C5pMigXBAgk

AQA past papers and mark schemes may be found here: https://www.aqa.org.uk/find-past-papers-and-mark-schemes

Ms Pearce
Head of Faculty - Science

Year 11 Ambassadors Inspire Year 7 to Aim High

Building Good Habits Early – Taking Responsibility for Attendance and Success

This week, two of our wonderful Year 11 student ambassadors delivered an inspiring assembly to our Year 7 students, focusing on the importance of attendance and how our core values of Responsibility, Grit, Teamwork, and Success underpin every achievement at RGTS and beyond.

Our Year 7 students engaged enthusiastically, sharing thoughtful ideas and reflections with our older role models. They left the assembly feeling motivated and ambitious to succeed — recognising that being in school every day, on time and ready to learn, is the foundation for future success.

We also reminded students that there's an important difference between being genuinely unwell (for example, with a fever) and simply feeling a bit tired, nervous, or having a cold. Learning to manage these everyday feelings shows real responsibility and helps build the resilience needed for success — both in school and beyond.

We are incredibly proud of how positively our Year 7 students have responded and how they are already showing great responsibility in managing their learning and wellbeing.



Attendance Matters





