

# THE ROYAL SCHOOL

## ARMAGH (Founded in 1608)



### Head Teacher:

Mr G.G.W. Montgomery, B.A (Hons), P.G.C.E., P.Q.H. (NI)

5 December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to inform you about the forthcoming January Examinations, which will include Mock Examinations for Year 11-14 pupils preparing for their GCSE and A-Level assessments. The examinations are scheduled for each year group as follows:

Year Group	Date
8-10	20th to 27th January
11	20th to 28th January
12	20th 31st January
13-14	20th to 27th January

The duration of each paper will vary in time, ranging from 45 minutes for some Year 8 examinations to 2 hours for GCSE and A-Level examinations. A detailed examination timetable is attached for your reference.

It is crucial that your child arrives at school on time and fully prepared for their examinations. We ask for your support in ensuring that your child has the necessary equipment for each examination. This includes:

- **Black or blue pens**
- **Pencils, eraser, pencil sharpener, ruler**
- **Calculator (if required)**

Certain subjects may require additional resources, and pupils should check with their subject teachers if they are unsure. Additionally, we recommend that your child gets 8-10 hours of sleep the night before each examination and enjoys a healthy breakfast at home or in the dining hall if they are a boarder.

Year 11 and 12 pupils will be in school for their **examinations only** and will be expected to revise at home when they do not have a scheduled examination either in the morning or in the afternoon. Pupils who have two examinations on the same day will be scheduled in study rooms between exams.

We strongly encourage pupils to engage in active revision and retrieval techniques to ensure their revision is both effective and engaging.

We ask that with your child you read through and process the guidance regarding study techniques and preparation for revision included in the 'Study skills and retrieval practice' booklet.

It would be helpful for them to revisit the learning strategies introduced during the Festival of Learning and select those techniques they feel are most beneficial to their individual needs. Inspire Education NI has created a study skills webinar for parents, which can be accessed via the link below and where possible it would be beneficial to watch this with your child. We hope this resource will support you in helping your child prepare for their studies at home. Please ensure the link is not shared on social media platforms or websites.

[Inspire Parent/Carer Tutorial](#)

We advise that GCSE and A-Level pupils approach these mock examinations with the same level of commitment and preparation as if they were sitting external exams. If they have not already begun preparing, now is the time to start. It is essential that all pupils engage in thorough preparation. Please ask your child to share their revision timetable with you and discuss how they plan to balance the demands of their subjects alongside any other commitments.

For valuable information on effective learning strategies please visit:

<https://www.learningscientists.org/downloadable-materials>

Additionally, here are some sources offering advice on how parents can support their children during exam periods:

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/exam-time/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/children-and-young-adults/advice-for-parents/help-your-child-beat-exam-stress/>

I recommend reviewing these documents with your child and discussing how they will balance their examination preparation with other activities. This is an important life skill that fosters resilience and perseverance.

The results of the January Examinations will be included in the Tracking Two report (Tracking One for Year 8), which will be sent home by the end of February 2025.

If you have any questions or need further support to assist your child in their preparations, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at [emurray885@c2ken.net](mailto:emurray885@c2ken.net).

Yours faithfully



**Mrs E Murray**  
Vice Principal Curriculum