



Aylsham High School

Part of the Aylsham Learning Federation
It takes a Whole Community to Educate a Child

Dear Parent/Carer

October 2026

Mock Exams – All Year 11 Students

As part of your child's preparation for their GCSE qualifications, they will complete mock exams in November, December and January. The timetable for these exams is attached for your reference.

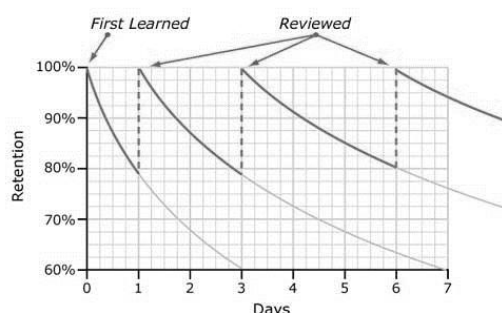
Included in the timetable are the dates for the art, graphics and textiles students for their sustained focus component 1 exam. This exam counts towards their final grade for the art and design courses.

To be successful in the mock exams, and to get the most out of the experience, your child will need to carefully plan and prepare their revision. It is crucial for students to use this opportunity as a way to practise their revision strategies, improve the core knowledge that they will need, identify topics in which they may need additional support and practise completing exams under exam conditions.

Further guidance is outlined below to support your child's preparations:

1. **During the next couple of weeks** - your child should speak with their subject teachers so that they know the style of each exam and are aware of any equipment they will need. They also need to ensure that they have the revision material and past papers required to support their preparation.
2. **Revision plan** – your child should make a revision timetable and stick to it. Put a copy somewhere central in your home so that everyone can see it and work together to keep to it. The timetable needs to space sessions out so that there is time to forget information and then re-learn it. This strengthens the memory of this knowledge as shown in the graph. We have provided students with an example of a revision timetable along with a blank copy for them to use to make their own version. They have been given two blank timetable templates. One for the Christmas period and a second one which can be used during term time.
3. **Mix up the subjects** – your child should break up the subjects and topics they need to learn into smaller blocks of around 30 minutes. They should plan to revise these topics in a mixed order. This strategy, called interleaving, has been shown to lead to deeper memory and understanding or mastery.

Typical Forgetting Curve for Newly Learned Information



Business & Enterprise



LEADERSHIP in LEARNING
The Cambridge Network

Executive Headteacher: Mr D Spalding B.A. (Hons) M.Ed. (Cantab)

Deputy Headteachers: Mr C Bridge B.Sc. (Hons), Mr P Brockington B.Sc. (Hons) M.A., Mrs K Garnham B.A. (Hons) M.A.

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4. **Core knowledge** – this is the crucial knowledge required to understand a subject. High levels of recall and understanding of this knowledge are required to successfully complete an exam. Repetition and quizzing are good ways to learn this material.
5. **Past paper questions** – your child should practise these to gain experience of answering exam style questions. These are a good way to identify areas of misunderstanding. These are the aspects on which they need to focus.

Please follow the QR code to the right to view a copy of the 'How to learn effectively' document which provides further information on the areas mentioned above. Implementing these strategies has been shown to have the greatest impact on learning and we would recommend that students use these to support their exam preparation. Alternatively, to access this document, please visit: <https://www.aylshamhigh.com/learningsubjectsahs>



If you would like a further explanation of the effective learning strategies, please follow this QR code to a video which covers each of the strategies. Alternatively, please visit: <https://youtu.be/CPxSzyIRCI> to access this video.



Organisation of the mock exams

The mock exams will take place in the main hall for the majority of students. If your child uses a laptop or reader pen to support them in their exams or if they are entitled to extra time, they will complete their exam in an appropriate venue.

Mock exams and external exams video

In order to share key information with our year 9, 10 and 11 students about the mock exams and external exams, students will have watched the video in a lesson this week when they received their pack. This video provides advice and guidance about how to prepare for the upcoming exams, including the most effective strategies to use for revision. The video is available online for students and their families to watch using the link below or the QR code.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nuYfuzbgmfE>

The results from the mock exams will be used to identify both areas of strength and any topics which your child may not fully know yet. These will become areas to work on in the run up to the summer exams. The results will also be used to complete your child's next report in the spring term, as well as supporting any decisions around tier of entry. Therefore, it is very important that your child prepares as fully as possible for these exams.

We know that hard work leads to success and I would like to thank you for your support in helping your child to work hard and prepare for these exams. I would like to share a quote about success from John Wooden, renowned American basketball player and coach, with you:

"Success is the peace of mind in knowing that you did your best to become the best you are capable of becoming."

Thank you again for your continued support in helping your child to do their best.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Bridge'.

Mr C Bridge

Deputy Headteacher

Winter 2026-2027

Week	Date	Day		1	2	tutor & break	3	lunch	4	5
2	26/11	Thursday								
	27/11	Friday		Y11 English Language paper 1 1hr 45 mins (2hr 12 mins)						
	28/11	Saturday								
	29/11	Sunday								
1	30/11	Monday		Y11 Maths paper 1 (non-calc) 1hr 30 mins (1hr 53 mins)						
	1/12	Tuesday		Y11 French listening (Op1 groups) F 50 mins (1hr 3 mins) / H 1hr 5 mins (1 hr 22 mins)					Y11 French listening (Op2 groups) F 50 mins (1hr 3 mins) / H 1hr 5 mins (1 hr 22 mins)	
	2/12	Wednesday		Y11 Biology 1hr 45 mins (2hr 12 mins) Y11 Combined Science Biology 1hr 10 mins (1hr 28 mins)						
	3/12	Thursday		Y11 French reading (Op2 groups) F 45 mins (58 mins) / H 1hr (1hr 15mins)					Y11 French reading (Op1 groups) F 45 mins (58 mins) / H 1hr (1hr 15mins)	
			Y9-11 DT (Op2 groups) 50 mins (1hr 3mins)				Y9-11 DT (Op1 groups) 50 mins (1hr 3mins)			
	4/12	Friday		Y11 Physics 1hr 45 mins (2hr 12 mins) Y11 Combined Science Physics 1hr 10 mins (1hr 28 mins)						
		5/12	Saturday							
	6/12	Sunday								
2	7/12	Monday		Y11 Chemistry paper 1 1hr 45 mins (2hr 12 mins) Y11 Combined Science Chemistry 1hr 10 mins (1hr 28 mins)					Y11 Religious Studies 50 mins (1hr 3 mins) - B1,B2,B3,B4	
	8/12	Tuesday		Y11 History paper 2 (Op2 groups) 1hr 50mins (2hr 18mins)					Y11 History paper 2 (Op1 groups) 1hr 50mins (2hr 18mins)	
			Y11 Geography (Op2 groups) 1hr 30mins (1hr 53mins)					Y11 Geography (Op1 groups) 1hr 30mins (1hr 53 mins)		
			Y9-11 Food (Op2 groups) 1hr 45mins (2hr 12mins)							
	9/12	Wednesday		Y11 English Language paper 2 1hr 45 mins (2hr 12 mins)						
	10/12	Thursday		Y9-11 Food (Op1 groups) 1hr 45mins (2hr 12mins)					Y9-11 PE paper 1 (Op2 groups) 1hr 30mins (1hr 53mins)	
			Y10-11 History paper 3 (1 year group) 1hr 30mins (1hr 53mins)					Y11 French writing (Op2 groups) F 1hr 15mins (1hr 34mins) / H 1hr 20mins (1hr 40mins)		
			Y11 French writing (Op1 groups) F 1hr 15mins (1hr 34mins) / H 1hr 20mins (1hr 40mins)							
11/12	Friday									
	12/12	Saturday								
	13/12	Sunday								
1	14/12	Monday								
	15/12	Tuesday								
	16/12	Wednesday								
	17/12	Thursday								
	18/12	Friday								
Christmas holidays										

KEY

Y11
Y9-11 option
GCSE exam

KEY

Week	Date	Day		1	2	tutor & break	3	lunch	4	5	
2	5/1	Tuesday									
	6/1	Wednesday	Year 11 French speaking - French teachers will confirm the individual times								
	7/1	Thursday		Y9-11 Drama (Op1 group) 50 mins (1hr 3mins)				Y9-11 Drama (Op2 group) 50 mins (1hr 3mins)			
	8/1	Friday		Y11 English Literature paper 1 1hr 40 mins (2hr 8mins)							
	9/1	Saturday									
	10/1	Sunday									
1	11/1	Monday		Y11 Maths paper 2 (calc) 1hr 30 mins (1hr 53 mins)					Y11 Chemistry paper 2 1hr (1hr 15 mins)		
	12/1	Tuesday	Year 11 French speaking - French teachers will confirm the individual times	Sustained focus component 1 GCSE exam for Art and Textiles groups (Op1 groups) in normal timetabled lessons					Sustained focus component 1 GCSE exam for Textiles groups (Op2 groups) in normal timetabled lessons		
	13/1	Wednesday		Sustained focus component 1 GCSE exam for Art and Textiles groups (Op1 groups) out of normal timetabled lessons							
	14/1	Thursday		Y9-11 Business (Op2 groups) 1hr 30mins (1hr 53 mins)					Y9-11 Business (Op1 groups) 1hr 30mins (1hr 53 mins)		
				Sustained focus component 1 GCSE exam for Textiles groups (Op2 groups) in normal timetabled lessons					Sustained focus component 1 GCSE exam for Art and Textiles groups (Op1 groups) in normal timetabled lessons		
	15/1	Friday		Sustained focus component 1 GCSE exam for Textiles groups (Op2 groups) out of normal timetabled lessons							
	16/1	Saturday									
	17/1	Sunday									
2	18/1	Monday									
	19/1	Tuesday		Sustained focus component 1 GCSE exam for Graphics groups (Op1 groups) in normal timetabled lessons					Sustained focus component 1 GCSE exam for Graphics groups (Op1 groups) in normal timetabled lessons		
	20/1	Wednesday		Sustained focus component 1 GCSE exam for Graphics groups (Op1 groups) out of normal timetabled lessons							
	21/1	Thursday		Sustained focus component 1 GCSE exam for Graphics groups (Op1 groups) in normal timetabled lessons					Sustained focus component 1 GCSE exam for Graphics groups (Op2 groups) in normal timetabled lessons		
	22/1	Friday		Sustained focus component 1 GCSE exam for Graphics groups (Op2 groups) out of normal timetabled lessons							