

# Plympton Academy

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Ref: LBO/TOV

13th December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

You will be aware that, during November, Year 11 students completed a set of mock examinations in the core subjects.

Class teachers have marked and moderated these mocks and today students were presented with their outcomes. It is likely that many students will be disappointed and worried that their mock grades do not reflect their hard work and targets and I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with some reassurance and context regarding these outcomes - particularly as we are so pleased and proud of how hard Year 11 students have worked so far this year.

It is accepted that this year group in particular have been significantly impacted by the Covid pandemic - their entire GCSE journey since Year 9 has been affected by periods of lockdown and/or self-isolation. Furthermore, students would have spent limited time preparing for the mocks in class as there is still some content to complete in all subjects (you will appreciate that the periods of lockdown have meant that we will not be completing the courses as early as we would have originally planned).

There are also some subject-specific contexts which you may find helpful in interpreting the mock results. In Maths and Science, students are entered into Higher or Foundation Tiered papers. If students entered for the Higher Tier do not achieve a Grade 4 or above, they are awarded a 'U' grade (Grade 4 is the lowest grade awarded on the Higher Tier).

In Science, students completed Paper 1 only - this content was delivered in Years 9 and 10. The English Literature mock focussed on Romeo and Juliet - the most challenging text upon which they will be assessed - and students have only completed three weeks of in-class learning for the English Language paper (again, most of this content was initially taught during the lockdown).

It is important that we assess this learning now so that class teachers can identify gaps in learning and understanding, and make plans accordingly. Furthermore, please bear in mind that these outcomes are not predictions - they are the grades that students would have received had they sat their final examinations in November.



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These grades and analysis of each students' performance will enable teachers to provide high-quality, bespoke coaching to prepare students for their final examinations; from January, students will start to receive intensive examination coaching during lessons and the Period 6 intervention sessions. In addition, the focus of lessons will switch to revision and exam question practice.

This has been explained to students today as they received their mock results and I thought it important to provide this context to parents and carers so that we can reassure students that there are exceptional circumstances and that we have strong plans in place which, with the hard work and commitment of students and teachers alike, will see a significant increase in students' achievements and confidence.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Boorman'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the word 'Boorman'.

**Ms L Boorman**  
**Principal**