



25th February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: Update - Spring 2 Mock Period

As promised in my previous letter before half term, I write to provide further details regarding the spring mock period. Please ensure your daughter has read this letter very carefully as it outlines key information she will need for a smooth examination window.

The government announced on 22nd February that schools will open from 8th March, however this will also need to include whole school Covid-testing before school doors are fully open to face-to-face teaching for students. These rapid Covid-tests need to occur 3-5 days apart which affects the next few weeks and have to be administered 3 times. To ensure there is no further delay to the March mock period these originally postponed examinations will continue to go ahead with students sitting these remotely from home, in this study leave period, using the Inespera platform as planned.

The Inespera exam software is used by a number of trusted world-class educational institutions such as the University of Oxford and The British Council in remote assessment; this exam platform helps provide increased exam security using a number of features, including enhanced academic dishonesty and plagiarism checks. Your daughter will sit all her March mock examinations via: <https://nmbec.inspera.com/>.

It is also worth noting, one of the outcomes of the joint Ofqual and Department of Education consultation regarding centre-assessed-grades (CAGS) is that teachers will use a range of evidence to arrive at CAGS, therefore we will have another formal assessment period in May/June. This is to ensure students have more opportunity to evidence their ability in each subject they are currently taking with the benefit of this being closer to the end of each of their courses. As long as the school continues to be open the expectation is these will be sat at school in the usual examination manner. I will be in touch in due course to summarise the outcomes of the full consultation and how this impacts your daughter in terms of assessment procedures going forward.

Spring mock examination windows:

Year Group	Dates	Full Return to School
Year 11	5 th – 15 th March	16 th March
Year 12 (AS entered subjects only)	8 th – 12 th March	
Year 13	5 th – 12 th March	

Year 12 students who are not sitting any AS exams in this mock period will be expected to return to face to face teaching on 8th March, once they have had their Covid test. The schedule of Covid testing will be released shortly by Mrs Hayden, the Headteacher.



Ahead of the March mock examination period:

- It's your daughter's responsibility to ensure she can log in successfully and she should take some time to become familiar with the software ahead of her assessments. Any log-in issues should be reported. Please see the 'setting up Inspera' section.
- Your daughter needs access to a laptop/computer device to complete her mocks. She should not take these assessments using a mobile phone. If circumstances have changed and your daughter no longer has access to the internet or a suitable electronic device please contact me as a matter of urgency.
- If your daughter is using a DfE loaned laptop, there are restrictions placed on the device by the DfE which will impact access to the software. Those students currently with a DfE laptop will be emailed separately about preparing for the mocks.
- Your daughter should check her mock timetable very carefully (at the end of this letter) to ensure she is clear when her assessments will take place. Mock examinations that are missed for any reason (technical issues/absence etc.) will not be able to be re-sat at a later date. Unfortunately under the current circumstances this is something we are unable to facilitate.

Setting up Inspera

- Student log-ins have been set up for use on Inspera – **this is the same as your daughter's school Gmail log-in details.**
- By Tuesday 2nd March please ensure she has visited the following link: <https://nmbec.inspera.com/> and check she can successfully log in.
- She should sit the Practice Test to become familiar with the system:
 - Click on 'register' under the question – Do you have a test code? Then complete the 'practice test'.
 - The first time she uses Inspera she will need to download 'lockdown browser'. Please ensure she does this when prompted (usually 15minutes). Once this is download she will not be required to do this again – it will be ready for whenever she sits a mock.
 - Once this is downloaded to her device she can sit the practice test.
 - She will then be asked for a SEB code. Please enter: nmbec 2021for all mock exams. For the practice test students need to use NMBEC2021 (capitals)
 - As long as she has been able to sit this practice test and continues to have internet connection she is ready for her mock exams.
- As Inspera has enhanced security parameters such as the lockdown browser with additional checks for plagiarism combined with in-test monitoring of your daughter's responses while sitting her exams, webcams do not need to be turned on. Student mobile phones should be turned off and out of reach.
- Before every mock exam your daughter will have to declare she is sitting the mock in exam conditions. Please ensure your daughter completes her mocks in silence, with no other materials other than those permitted and in a space she will not be distracted. If a student is found to have breached this declaration in order to seek an unfair advantage during her mocks, this will have serious consequences and may result in disqualification from her course/s.

Important notes:

- Students who have an access arrangement will still be contacted in a separate letter to discuss how this can be accommodated.
- As you can appreciate, grades can only be assigned if work is completed. If your daughter fails to complete an assessment this will be recorded as not completed.
- During the mocks periods set out there will be no live lessons, instead the time should be used by students to revise and prepare for their examinations.
- InSpira enables enhanced plagiarism checks. If a student is found to have plagiarised any of their work this will be automatically flagged by the software and the student will receive an automatic U grade and the appropriate sanctions carried out.
- In order to facilitate moderation of the assessment sat across year groups, Wednesday 17th March and Friday 19th March will be half school days as staff need to moderate marking.

Support

- To further support your daughter through her mock period we have reduced the number of papers she will sit compared to what was previously planned.
- For sixth form we have spread the mock exams over a larger number of days than was initially planned should these have been sat in school.
- Where possible, we have included a weekend in the schedule to provide some relief between papers.
- Some subjects have opted for students to sit partial papers rather than full mock papers.
- The school has moved remote assessment to the InSpira platform instead of Google Classroom, which will provide your daughter with a much smoother experience of remote assessments.
- An InSpira practice paper has been made available so students can have a good sense of the system ahead of their mocks. Step-by-step instructions will be provided.
- Additional time (10%) has been added to all remote exams in recognition this is a different way of working for students.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me on the details below.

Yours Sincerely,



Mrs M Collins
Deputy Headteacher for Raising Standards
Email: mottram@nmbec.org.uk

Spring 2 Mock Timetables

-YEAR 11 MOCK PERIOD SCHEDULE– 5 th – 15 th March							
Start Time	Friday 5 th March	Monday 8 th March	Tuesday 9 th March	Wednesday 10 th March	Thursday 11 th March	Friday 12 th March	Monday 15 th March
08:45am	ENGLISH LANGUAGE Paper 1 1hr 45mins	HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE Component 3 Health and Wellbeing 2hours	DRAMA Component 3 Interpreting Theatre 1hr 15mins PE Paper 1 1hr 15mins MUSIC Component 3 Appraising 1hr 15mins	HISTORY Paper 1 1hr 15mins	CHEMISTRY Triple or Combined or Single 1hr	PSYCHOLOGY Paper 1 1hr 50mins MEDIA STUDIES Combined Paper 1hr FURTHER MATHS Paper 1 Non-Calculator 1hr 45mins	SOCIOLOGY 1hr 45mins
11:45am	GEOGRAPHY Paper 1 1hr 10mins	MATHS Calculator Paper 1hr 30mins	RS Component 1 – Religion in the modern world 2hours	ENGLISH LITERATURE Paper 1 1hr 45mins	CITIZENSHIP Paper 3 1hr 15mins	PHYSICS 1hr	RS Component 2/3 Christianity and Islam 1hr 20mins
2:45pm	SPANISH Reading	BIOLOGY Triple or Combined 1hr	GEOGRAPHY Paper 2 1hr 05mins	COMPUTING 1hr 30mins	PE Paper 2 1hr 15 mins BUSINESS STUDIES Paper 1 1hr 30mins	SPANISH Writing	None

-YEAR 12 MOCK PERIOD – 8 th – 12 th March					
Start Time	Monday 8 th March	Tuesday 9 th March	Wednesday 10 th March	Thursday 11 th March	Friday 12 th March
08:45am	MATHS P1: Pure Mathematics 1hour 30minutes	BIOLOGY 7401 (1&2) 1hour 30mins	BUSINESS STUDIES Paper 1 (7131/1) 1hour 30mins	GOV. & POLITICS Paper 2 UK Government 1hour 15mins	CHEMISTRY Breadth and Depth in Chemistry 1hour 30mins
1:45pm	GOV. & POLITICS Paper 1 UK Politics 1hour 15mins	None	None	MATHS Paper 2: Statistics and Mechanics 1hour	None

-YEAR 13 MOCK PERIOD – 5 th – 12 th March						
Start Time	Friday 5 th March	Monday 8 th March	Tuesday 9 th March	Wednesday 10 th March	Thursday 11 th March	Friday 12 th March
8:45am	MEDIA STUDIES Paper 1 Media Messages 2hours	BUSINESS STUDIES Paper 3 2hours CHEMISTRY Periodic Table / Elements/ Physical Chem / Sythesis 2hours HISTORY Paper 1 (9H10/1C) 1hour 30mins	PSYCHOLOGY Social Influence/ Psychopathology / Approaches / Biopsych 2hours	GEOGRAPHY Paper 1 Tectonics/ Coasts / Water 1hour 40mins RS Combined Components 1-3 2hours SOCIOLOGY 7192/2 2 hours	HISTORY Paper 2 9H10/39 Option 39 2hours 15mins	ECONOMICS Paper 2 National & International Economy 2hours
1:45pm	ENGLISH LITERATURE Paper 1 1hour 15mins	MATHS Paper 1 Pure Mathematics 1 (9MA0 01) 1hour 30mins	APPLIED SCIENCE Unit 3 1hour ECONOMICS Paper 1 Markets & Market Failure 2hours	BIOLOGY Paper 2 (7402) 2hours	MATHS Paper 2: Statistics and Mechanics 1hour 30mins	GEOGRAPHY Paper 2 Globalisation, Superpowers, Diverse Places 1hour 35mins SOCIOLOGY 7192/3 2 hours