



The British School

Caroline Drumm
Principal

P.O. Box 566, Jhamsikhel, Patan
Kathmandu, Nepal

18th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Absence during mock exams

I am writing to ask for your support in the administration of the mock exams for Key Stage 5 students. In response to feedback from previous years, we have scheduled no more than one mock exam per day for Key Stage 5 students - so that revision on the evening before the exam is manageable and still leaving time for students to maintain a healthy lifestyle including exercise and good sleep patterns. This means that mocks extend for a full two weeks, but we are retaining normal class teaching for four periods each day and, except for exam slots (either period 1 & 2 or period 5 & 6) where a student may not be sitting an exam, there is no study leave during the school day.

Students were expected to revise for the exams during the three week Christmas holiday and to use their out of school independent study time after school to make the final preparations for the next day's exam. From my previous experience, it is not uncommon for students to misjudge their preparation for mocks, not use the time available in the holiday as efficiently as they might and to feel somewhat underprepared for the mock exams. If your child is feeling in a similar position please be assured that this is very common and is one of the major learning "take-aways" that students learn from the mock exam experience to allow them to improve their performance in the real exams.

There have been a number of cases this week where students who have an afternoon exam have been signed off as sick in the morning, but have sufficiently recovered to arrive at school later in the morning to sit their exam. I am aware that sometimes this may genuinely be the case and it is not my place to question the judgement of parents when assessing the fitness of your child to attend school. However, to avoid any suspicion that morning sickness is being used as a cover for last minute cramming for an exam, if your child is too sick to attend school in the morning during the exam period, they should remain at home and rest for the whole day so that they are fully fit to continue with their mock exams when they return to school. We are scheduling mock exam catch up sessions in the next two weeks for students who miss their mocks for absence from school so all students will complete their mock exams in full.

The 4 lessons each day that are continuing during mock exams are important curriculum lessons which are necessary for all students to attend. Please may I again ask for your support in sending your child to school on days when they have no exams, even if they tell you they would prefer to stay at home and revise, unless of course they are genuinely too ill to attend school or have an infection that they may pass onto other members of our community.

Patron: H.E. The British Ambassador

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Mock exams are a learning experience and a good opportunity for students to reflect on their revision strategies. As a school we promote planned, spaced revision and will be encouraging all students to use lessons learnt during mocks to plan their revision for the summer exams, making good use of the time available during term and during the Easter holidays.

Please do contact me should you have any questions on this matter and again I thank you for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely
Mr. Christopher Draper
Head of Secondary

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