

26 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

YEAR 11 ASSESSED GRADES AND STUDENT SUPPORT

We hope that this letter finds you and your family well as we approach our Easter break. We wanted to update you further on the examination board advice to date, what this means for our year 11 students, and how we will continue to support your child throughout these assessments.

You will find information below about our approach to establishing Summer 2021 Grades for your child. Information from the exam boards at present for **GCSE qualifications** are as follows:

- Teachers need to assess their students' performance - based only on what has been taught - to determine the grade each student should receive.
- Teachers can use evidence of a student's performance from throughout the course to inform their judgement. This can include work completed remotely where it is appropriate.
- Schools and colleges should use a broad range of evidence for each student, for each subject studied, to determine their individual grades.

We have assessed your child throughout their courses of study and have a range of 'key task' evidence for each subject. They have also completed some assessed work while undertaking remote learning. However, we must continue to allow students to demonstrate the progress that they have made throughout their courses and provide additional assessment opportunities in the coming weeks. We have worked with our partner secondary schools in our Trust to establish an assessment strategy for our year 11 students. This strategy will use a number of forms of assessment to provide further robust and standardised evidence to establish teacher-assessed grades for each student. The assessments will include;

- In the vast majority of subjects an assessment task before the Easter break. Some have already taken place and we have given your child a personalised timetable of their remaining assessments leading up to Thursday 1st April.
- Two further assessments following the Easter break – we will give your child a personalised timetable of their assessments for after the Easter break early next week. (These may be subject to slight change depending on further guidance due to be published from Ofqual shortly – we will keep your child fully informed of these).
- The vast majority of assessments are within your child's individual lessons (some may go across more than one lesson of a particular subject), this is not to disrupt learning in other subjects.

Continued overleaf

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- Where appropriate for these assessment students will be provided with reference materials to use as a resource to support the assessment. This ensures that we are focusing on assessing understanding and application of knowledge.
- We will also follow a timetable of catch up assessments during a Period 7 time should your child be absent on the day of a particular assessment.

Assessments will take place in classrooms with subject teachers during lesson time and will be conducted in test conditions. Where students are entitled to Exams Access Arrangements these are and will continue to be fully in place for all students.

For Art, BTECs and other vocational qualifications, we will continue to work on portfolio evidence to allow students to demonstrate their progress with these courses. At this stage, we are planning no summative assessments for these qualifications.

There will be some subject study support sessions in place over the Easter break led by our teachers. Some of these sessions will be via TEAMS and some will involve 'in-school' sessions. We will publish these to our students next week. Subject teachers will continue to provide revision lists and materials to students to ensure that students are fully and thoroughly prepared. In addition to this we will continue with our period 7 programme after the Easter break up to the May half term.

Following the assessment period, there will be a thorough standardisation process across subjects and with partner school involvement for additional external validation. This will ensure that Summer 2021 grades are fair, robust and accurate.

As we always say, it is important that your child finds the balance between completing productive school work over the Easter break alongside clearly defined breaks and time away from school work. It is important that your child takes time away from school work completely for family time, fun, rest and relaxation (alongside our ever-changing COVID rules!). This is vital for your child's health and wellbeing.

We will continue to support our students throughout these difficult circumstances and will ensure that the nature and purpose of each type of assessment is fully understood by all. We are determined to ensure that we provide sufficient opportunities for our students to demonstrate fully the progress that they have made and the grades that they are deserving of. If you have any questions about our assessment strategy please do not hesitate to contact us. If there is any information about how your child is coping with their assessments that you feel that we should know about please contact the Year 11 Team. Our absolute priority is to support our Year 11 students both academically and with their health and wellbeing.


Many thanks for your support during this challenging time.



Mrs C Smith
Acting Principal



Mr D Merrifield
Director of Key Stage
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Mr N Holmes
Director of Progress