

23 April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 11 Grading Update

We received further information from the examination boards at the beginning of this week and can now share the arrangements for the series of in-class assessments that will take place this half-term.

In-Class Assessments to Support Summer Grading

On pages 3 and 4 of this letter, you will find the final in-class assessments that will be taking place over the remainder of this half-term for each subject that your son/ward studies. These assessments, along with some previous work, will enable subject areas to submit initial grades for moderation before these are then sent to the examination boards for further moderation and ratification. All assessments will be undertaken in line with published guidance from the examination boards.

If there is a timetable clash for your son/ward, please do not worry about this. This will be resolved and we will let your son/ward know what they need to do in this case.

Statement of Entry

You will shortly be able to look on Insight for your son/ward's statement of entry for their GCSE qualifications in Summer 2021. Please check that all personal and course details are correct, in particular the 'Name on Certificates' which should be the full legal name, and the date of birth, and contact the school immediately if any information is incorrect or missing. Vocational courses (BTECs) will not appear on this list.

Attendance at School

It is vital that students attend school every day. We cannot assess students accurately if they are not here and although some catch-up sessions may be permitted, these cannot be given the same weighting as they will not have been completed with the rest of the class. If a student needs to self-isolate due to COVID-19, please do contact us as soon as possible so that we can put the relevant support in place.

Access Arrangements & Special Considerations

For the students who already have pre-arranged access arrangements, they will be supported for these in-class assessments in the usual way. All students have been told to inform their teacher immediately if they have any circumstances or issues which they think might affect any assessments. The [JQC document](#) attached to your email has further details on this.

Advice and Support

Colleagues in school will continue to provide the usual range of support this term. In addition, Ofqual (the examinations regulator) have published a [blog](#), which is a short read but also provides good information and support. You can click on the link or read it as an attachment to your email.

What Happens After Half Term?

The last day of school for Year 11 students will be Friday 28 May, the end of this half-term.

It remains important that, along with the grading exercise, we prioritise a student's readiness for their next step whether that is the Sixth Form, an apprenticeship, employment and training, or a college place. Support for Year 11 to help prepare them for their next steps will be given after the half-term break and we will publish details of this nearer the time. For students staying in the Sixth Form, this will include specific work to enable them to make the transition as smooth as possible.

GCSE Results Day

The results day this year is Thursday 12 August.

It is most likely that your son/ward will be given an appointment between 9.00 - 10.30am to collect his results. Please do add this date to your calendar and ensure that you are available to come into school on results day. This will be the quickest way to collect results and your son/ward will also be able to access relevant support.

The Appeals Process

You can find on the school website and linked [here](#), the guidance from JCQ (the Joint Council for Qualifications) on how grades are awarded. It also contains information about any potential appeals process, should you feel this is necessary. We would encourage parents/carers and students to be familiar with this document.

The Potential for Examination Malpractice

The final grades submitted to the examination boards will not be shared with students or family members. The integrity of the examinations system needs to be maintained, so please do not make contact with any member of staff regarding the grades, as colleagues are instructed to not respond. If a parent/carer or student endeavours to place pressure on an individual member of staff, it is likely that this will be reported to the examination board as potential malpractice.

Careers Education, Information, Advice & Guidance

While the vast majority of Year 11 students have already identified their projected destination for next year, there are still a minority who have not finished this process. The school careers advisors continue to provide support, so please do take advantage of this service.

Thank you for all of your continuing support.

Yours faithfully,



Euan Ferguson
Headteacher

English Language

DATE AND LESSON	ASSESSMENT DETAIL AND LENGTH
Tuesday 4 May, period 2	Paper 1 - Section A (55 minutes)
Thursday 6 May, period 5	Paper 1 - Section B (45 minutes)

English Literature

DATE AND LESSON	ASSESSMENT DETAIL AND LENGTH
Monday 26 April, period 2	Shakespeare ('Romeo & Juliet') (50 minutes)
Monday 10 May, period 2	20 th -century text ('Lord of the Flies') (50 minutes)
Monday 17 May, period 2	Poetry (unseen) (50 minutes)
Monday 24 May, period 2	Poetry (Power & Conflict) (50 minutes)

Mathematics

DATE AND LESSON	ASSESSMENT DETAIL AND LENGTH
Friday 23 April, period 2	Calculator paper (1 hour)
Friday 7 May, period 2	Calculator paper (1 hour)
Wednesday 19 May, period 1	Non-Calculator paper (1 hour)

Science Combined

DATE AND LESSON	ASSESSMENT DETAIL AND LENGTH
Monday 10 May, period 5 and study support	Chemistry (1 hour 15 minutes)
Wednesday 12 May, starts 9.15am and continues into period 2	Physics (1 hour 15 minutes)
Friday 14 May, period 5 and study support	Biology (1 hour 15 minutes)
Monday 24 May, period 5	Chemistry (45 minutes)
Tuesday 25 May, period 2	Physics (45 minutes)
Thursday 27 May, period 1	Biology (45 minutes)

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Science Triple

DATE AND LESSON	ASSESSMENT DETAIL AND LENGTH	
Monday 10 May, period 5 and study support	Biology (1 hour 45 minutes)	45 minutes will be sat with the combined paper. The remaining 60 minutes will be sat during their triple lesson that week.
Wednesday 12 May, starts 9.15am and continues into period 2	Chemistry (1 hour 45 minutes)	
Friday 14 May, period 5 and study support	Physics (1 hour 45 minutes)	
Monday 24 May, period 5	Chemistry (1 hour 45 minutes)	
Tuesday 25 May, period 2	Physics (1 hour 45 minutes)	
Thursday 27 May, period 1	Biology (1 hour 45 minutes)	

Students have received a personalised document via email which also contains their options subjects.