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Dear Parents and Carers,

Now that Year 11 students have returned we wanted to share important examination and assessment information with you. We have explained to students the importance of engaging with school work, cooperation and trying their very best between now and when they leave. Whilst we are still waiting final confirmation from exam boards relating to the processes and requirements for evidence, we thought it best to update you on what action we are taking in anticipation of further announcements. Please would you read this letter with your child.

### **Student GCSE results will be teacher assessed grades**

Teachers have been instructed to award grades for every student on the basis of the level they are performing at, rather than what they would predict a student would have achieved had they sat exams in normal conditions. To meet the deadline set by Ofqual and the exam boards, we need to ensure all work that the grades are based on is moderated by 11<sup>th</sup> June 2021. This means that a portfolio of evidence for every student, for individual subjects, will need to be collated and marked in time to provide the evidence to support each grade, prior to submission. This portfolio will include work already undertaken (where appropriate) as well as evidence of a student's ability, which will be assessed from now until the end of May. Evidence could include coursework, classwork, exams or tests and may vary from subject to subject and student to student, depending on their performance in each task. You should also be reassured to know students have been continually assessed whilst in school, and this year have sat interim assessments in October and Mock examinations in December.

In addition to the above we have planned our own assessment window in the summer term where students will sit short pieces of work to ensure they have every chance to demonstrate their ability. They will take place in lessons, and those with access arrangements will be accommodated, to ensure they are given the correct level of support (see below for assessment details).

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Course Code</b>	<b>How students will be assessed?</b>
English	AQA 8700	English Language Mini Tests: Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> May and Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> May
English Literature	AQA 8702	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> March: English Literature Paper: Macbeth Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> May: English Literature Paper: Unseen Poetry
Mathematics	AQA 8300	Students will take 3 full exam papers (1 non-calculator and 2 calculator) however these will be split in half so that they actually take 6 x 45-minute exams in lesson time. These will take place week beginning the 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> of May (on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday). During the 2 weeks after they will have a chance to submit additional evidence. They will be provided with a revision list. Extra help on a Tuesday after school and intervention sessions in registration will restart week beginning 22 <sup>nd</sup> March. The December mock, this assessment and the extra tasks completed during lessons will provide evidence to support the allocation of their grade.

Biology	Edexcel 1BIO	<p>6 mini test papers, each lasting 45 minutes on the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tues 20<sup>th</sup> April Biology 1</li> <li>▪ Weds 21<sup>st</sup> April Chemistry 1</li> <li>▪ Tues 27<sup>th</sup> April Physics 1</li> <li>▪ Weds 12<sup>th</sup> May Biology 2</li> <li>▪ Tues 18<sup>th</sup> May Chemistry 2</li> <li>▪ Weds 19<sup>th</sup> May Physics 2</li> </ul>
Chemistry	Edexcel 1CGO	
Physics	Edexcel 1PHO	
Combined Science	Edexcel 1SCO	<p>The content has been reduced and students will be provided with revision lists.</p> <p>The mini tests will not include any of the longer 6-mark questions, instead these will be prepped for and assessed in separate lessons when teaching staff deem most appropriate to do so</p>
Computer Science	Edexcel 1CP2	Students will have one exam paper for paper 1, but split into two parts one week apart and 1 extended answer paper to be set separately. Paper 2 will be assessed using GROK learning.
Geography	AQA 8035	Students will follow a 2 or 3-week cycle of teaching, review of learning and assessment on topics previously taught in lessons. Past exam materials will be used.
History	Edexcel 1HIO	Students will follow a 2-week cycle of teaching, review and assessment in lessons. Past exam materials will be used.
Religious Education	Edexcel 1RBO	Students will follow a 2 or 3-week cycle of teaching, review of learning and assessment on topics previously taught. Past exam materials will be used.
French	AQA 8658	<p>French and Spanish students will be doing mini assessments periodically over the remaining weeks in school. Students will be given time to revise and prepare in the first lesson of the assessment week, and will do an assessment no longer than 45 minutes in the second lesson to allow for any students who may need extra time. Listening, Reading, Writing and translation skills will be assessed in this way in order for us to have a wide range of evidence when awarding final grades. The speaking assessment will take place in lessons and will be prepared for in advance. This will be assessed according to the AQA criteria for this year's speaking endorsement and grades of pass, merit or distinction will be submitted to the examination board.</p>
Spanish	AQA 8698	
Art and Design	OCR J170	Development of a final piece idea will be in lessons until the first week after Easter. An exam day to complete the final piece will occur in the week of the 26 <sup>th</sup> April. Subsequently, the portfolio will be assessed as a complete unit, and marks submitted to the exam board. There is an expectation of exam board quality assurance to take place after the 15 <sup>th</sup> May.
Drama	EDUQAS C6902QS	Students will present their evidence through a variety of mediums. Exam style questions will be completed in class, filmed practical rehearsals and technical theatre presentations. They will be guided through evidence collection using a subject specific workbook in relation to Component 3 of the course content.

Music	AQA 8271	Ongoing assessment in lessons. Past papers and specimen papers will be used. Missing coursework - performance and compositions.
Design and Technology	AQA 8552	As things stand (pending further information from AQA that instructs otherwise) we intend to shift focus from NEA to assessment 3 weeks after Easter. We will be giving a range of exam questions in lesson over a period of 3 weeks (ongoing). Assessments are likely to take around half an hour of lesson time with the intention of building up body of evidence. Assessment material will be made up of questions from past papers, students will be provided with preparation materials.
Food Preparation and Nutrition	AQA 8585	As things stand (pending further information from AQA that instructs otherwise), we intend to complete the NEA, including a practical examination, where-by two dishes will need to be cooked and presented within a continuous three-hour period. We will also be completing a series of exam-style questions in lesson. Assessments are likely to take around half an hour of lesson time with the intention of building up body of evidence. Further information will be provided shortly stating the date of the practical examination.
BTEC First Award- Construction and the Built Environment	Edexcel 600/6817/6	Ongoing assessment of final unit to continue in the normal manner. Students will not be sitting any additional written assessments during this period.
BTEC First Award in Sport	Edexcel 600/4779/3	BTEC sport will continue with its normal pattern of assessment throughout the course. They will not sit any exams or tests. The assessment is purely from the work they produce.
Astronomy	Edexcel 1AS0	2 mini test papers, each lasting 50 minutes on the following dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Weds 21<sup>st</sup> April Naked-eye Astronomy (paper 1)</li> <li>▪ Weds 19<sup>th</sup> May Telescopic Astronomy (paper 2)</li> </ul> The content has been reduced and students have been provided with revision lists. Students will be prepped for these tests in lessons from 17 <sup>th</sup> March.

### Quality Assurance

There will be both internal and external (from the exam boards) quality assurance processes. We have planned our own internal moderation processes. Exam boards will sample schools to scrutinise these processes and the quality of work supporting a predicted grade to ensure there is rigour and consistency in the national approach to the awarding of GCSE grades. This checking process will ensure there is no grade inflation and the grade submitted is supported by full and thorough evidence. We, therefore, will need to ensure our internal moderation processes are standardised and fair.

### Appeals process

GCSE exam results day has been brought forward to 12<sup>th</sup> August. Students will not know their final grades until this day. Schools will handle any appeals in the first instance, but these can be escalated to the exam boards. Ofqual have been very clear that an appeal could only take place if a student feels there has been an administrative error on submission of their grade, especially if a school has followed exam board instructions on implementing a full and thorough internal moderation and standardisation process. An appeal is unlikely to change a final grade.

I hope this gives you a clear overview of some of the key points - crucially the message for students is keep engaging, cooperating and producing work to the best of their ability. Please be assured we will make sure all students are supported through this process - they will be given advice and the opportunity to improve or provide the evidence necessary. Indeed, if concerns arise regarding student progress we will contact parents to make them aware.

We are still awaiting further information about the finish date for Year 11, however it is highly unlikely students will be required to attend beyond Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

*Mr M Jervis*

Mr M Jervis  
Assistant Headteacher, Key Stage 4