

21 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Examinations 2021

You will be aware that the consultation from Ofqual on how grades will be awarded for Year 11 and Year 13 was released on Friday 15 January. This will close at 11:45pm on Friday 29 January. At this point, it is just a consultation and the information is still a little vague. Our interpretation is that teachers will be entering their assessment of the standard to which the student is performing in May/June. It also suggests students will then get their results earlier than normal, potential middle of July, to ensure there are time for appeals before embarking on the next stage of their education.

I understand the uncertainty will be causing anxiety. All we can ask from the students is that they continue with their learning so the academy can input the grade they deserve. The consultation is very clear that students need to continue engaging with the online learning so that teachers have the evidence needed for the assessed grades. The consultation also suggests schools may be asked to set examinations in May/June on the work they have covered. We would see this as an opportunity for students to show what they can do.

The consultation document for GCSE and A-Level can be read by following this [LINK](#). The consultation for vocational subjects (not GCSE or A-Levels such as BTECs) can be read by following this [LINK](#). The academy is preparing a response to the consultation but I would encourage parents/carers and students to also contribute to the formal consultation so that a broad spectrum of opinions are considered.

As soon as I hear the outcome of the consultation, I will write to you with the full details.

Partnership Evening

We have postponed our Y11 Partnership Evening scheduled in January until we receive the outcome of the consultation on this summer's exams. Once we have this information we will reschedule the Partnership Evening so that you can stay fully informed.

Tracking

We will shortly be undertaking Y11 tracking and sending this home before half term. Tracking will be based on assessments and work completed in the academy in the first term as well as work completed during the current lockdown and participation in live lessons.

Online Learning

As detailed in my letter sent on the 8 January, we will be introducing a second live lesson per day from Monday 25 January. This will ensure students have access to a hybrid of both live and pre-recorded

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lessons. Recently the Education Endowment Fund and Ofsted released research which support this approach.

Please remember that the pre-recorded lessons also have live teacher input. The student's teacher is available on Zoom at the time of the lesson to teach the student or give support if they need it throughout that lesson.

Your child's live lesson will be at the times below and will be the subject they would normally have at that time during that week. If they have a practical PE lesson the teacher will be delivering the PSHE curriculum instead. This covers a range of topics around health and wellbeing such as 'Mental Health and Depression', 'Effects of Smoking' and 'The Danger of Drugs'. Attendance to these lessons is compulsory so please contact us if there are genuine reasons why your child cannot attend. We are introducing a method of registering the students each week and we will be able to contact parents/carers if a student does not attend.

All five lessons, including the live lesson, will still be available on Satchel One as a pre-recorded lesson.

	Monday Period 2	Monday Period 3	Tuesday Period 1	Tuesday Period 3	Wed Period 3	Wed Period 5	Thursday Period 2	Thursday Period 5	Friday Period 3	Friday Period 5
Start Time	9:55	11:10	8:55	11:10	11:10	13:40	9:55	13:40	11:10	13:40

We will run this timetable for two weeks then review it again.

We are conscious that we have emailed home lots of information over the past few weeks, and so we now have created a dedicated Home Learning section on the main menu of our academy website. In this section, parents and carers can find key information to help support students when completing their home learning. This includes our expectations, times of the academy day, various technical guidance along with help and support guides. Please click [HERE](#) to access our new Home Learning section.

As always, if there are any queries then please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Yours faithfully



Mr P Willerton - Principal