

16th March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would firstly like to thank you for all of the support you have given to your son/daughter over this unusual time. Home learning is not easy but with your encouragement and support the vast majority of students have fully engaged in both live lessons and independent study, giving themselves every chance to continue their studies, now they have returned to school.

There has been a great deal of information distributed by the government in recent weeks regarding how students will gain their qualifications at the end of the academic year. Students are aware that all of the deliberate practice, coursework and exam style practice questions they have been completing, as well as the mock exam results from December, will contribute to their final grade. This is providing evidence of what they are capable of achieving and giving them the skills and confidence they need to achieve their potential this summer.

We will continue to provide students with further opportunities to demonstrate their ability so that there is sufficient evidence to support their final grade. Our mock exam season will continue between 22nd March and 1st April. The content of the mock exams will only cover topics that students have actually been taught, nothing new will be tested. Students have been informed of this in the most recent assembly with information also posted in their year group Classrooms. Please ask your son/daughter to show you.

Although the mock exams will be completed in a 'traditional' setting there are some alterations to allow the students to demonstrate their understanding. Students will be able to take the following revision materials that they have prepared into the exam:

- 1) Own handwritten revision notes e.g. Cornell notes, self quizzing
- 2) Own flash cards, mind maps, formulae sheets

However, class books and revision guides will NOT be allowed to be used in the exam.

Class teachers are continuing to prepare the students for the second round of mock exams using practice exam questions, classwork and bespoke revision sessions to give the students every opportunity to be successful. After Easter students will follow the timeline below, taking a further two mini assessments:

Timeline

Week Beginning	Actions
08/03/2021	Students return to college for lessons and after school revision.
15/03/2021	Lessons as normal
22/03/2021	Second set of mock exams start
29/03/2021	Second set of mock exams finish on 1st April
05/04/2021	Easter Holidays
12/04/2021	Easter Holidays
19/04/2021	Teaching Chunk 1
26/04/2021	Lessons as normal
03/05/2021	Mini Assessment 1
10/05/2021	Teaching Chunk 2
17/05/2021	Lessons as normal
24/05/2021	Mini Assessment 2
31/05/2021	Half Term Holiday
07/06/2021	Exam board information used to grade
14/06/21	Centre assessed grades (CAGs) entered by Friday 18th June

When deciding a students overall grade the following evidence will be used:

- Exam board questions, past papers
- Coursework, even if this has not been fully completed
- Substantial class or homework (including those that took place during remote learning)
- Mock exams taken over the course of study
- Records of a student's capability and performance over the course of study in performance-based subjects such as music, drama and PE

All this evidence will be used to produce a balanced judgement on what grade each student should be awarded in each of their subjects.

As mentioned at the start of this letter, your support of the students has been and continues to be vital and very much valued. I'd like to place on record a big thank you to you all for this support. Although this has been a very different experience for the students, they have been given every opportunity to achieve their best grades in the Summer and go onto their next steps next year.

Yours faithfully,



Anita Frier
Principal