



19 March 2021

Dear Parent

RE: Exam groups update

I want to start by thanking you all for the overwhelming support you have shown our school community as we work together to ensure that our young people get the best opportunity to complete their courses this year and are able to proceed to the next stage in their education or employment, as they would have done under normal circumstances. Last Friday I held a Teams briefing for parents to give you the latest information we have around Teacher Assessed Grades and to share our teaching and assessment plans for the remainder of the year. There were some questions and requests that I took away to consider and I would like to take this opportunity to share our responses to those with you now.

Feedback on Progress

Teachers and students will discuss their progress on a weekly basis. Individual assessments will be fed back on in context. There are many elements that make up a final grade to any qualification and it is vital that students understand the contribution any one piece of work might make to an overall grade.

For example, in Languages there are four skills all contributing to an overall GCSE grade: writing, speaking, reading and listening. Each skill has different elements within it, so for example, a writing grade is made up of both writing and translation. Therefore, an assessment based on a writing task will only form a part of an overall Teacher Assessed Grade taken in context with evidence of all other skills.

Where additional support is required to enable students to perform at their best, teachers will be in contact with you to arrange this. If you have any queries or concerns, please be in contact with class teachers as you normally would be. I would ask that you work with us as we gather this evidence and understand that the task at hand is new to us all. I have every faith in our excellent team of teachers who have a wealth of experience and a deep understanding of teaching and assessment.

I am glad that the Teams briefings have been helpful and I welcome your questions and feedback. I have added another two dates into the calendar for Teams briefings, one before Easter and one towards the end of the assessment period.

Intervention and Independent Study

Year 13 have access to school facilities during their study periods and during period 6 after school in the Sixth Form Study Centres. Intervention for them will be offered individually where it is needed, in order to secure evidence of best work.

Year 11 are welcome to stay in school until 5pm every day to use our facilities for independent study. Year 10 are also welcome to stay every day, on Monday to Thursday until 4pm and on Fridays until 5pm. All students will remain in their Core PE lesson for one hour per week as per their timetable which will give them the opportunity to get involved with physical activity each week. This may be reviewed if we need to secure further evidence for some students.

Holiday sessions may be offered where we feel students need additional specialist support or additional time to gather evidence, though we are confident that our plans for teaching and assessing are robust and will give us ample evidence to award grades fairly and accurately.



The timetable below shows the intervention opportunities on offer for Year 10 and 11 students. All students can access a laptop during independent study periods. Some of the specialist intervention offered will be for targeted students, teachers will let students and parents know where this is the case. All students can attend independent study sessions without notice.

Year 10

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Period 0				DT Catering Digital ICT	
Period 6	Enterprise	Photography Sport	Drama	Digital ICT	
Supervised Independent Study	3.05-4pm open area	3.05-4pm open area	3.05-4pm open area	3.05-4pm open area	3.05-5pm open area

Year 11

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Period 0		DT Engineering	Business Graphics	Catering Maths	Geography
Period 6	Spanish	Science French English Fortnightly Photography Music	PE Spanish Fine Art	Drama	
Supervised Independent Study	3.05-5pm open area	3.05-5pm open area	3.05-5pm open area	3.05-5pm open area	3.05-5pm open area

Leavers Dates and Celebrations

We can now confirm that Year 11 and Year 13 students will leave on Friday 11 June this year. We have a team working on plans both for their final week and for a fitting celebration of their achievements. We will be consulting with students as to what those plans might look like, and we are very much hoping that restrictions will have been lifted so that Year 11 and Year 13 can have as 'normal' a celebration as possible!

Key Dates

9 March	First phase of teaching and assessment begins with all students back in school
10 March	Assembly for all exam groups at Tutor Time
12 March	Exam briefing for parents via Teams invite
15 March	Intervention programme begins
1 April	Exam briefing for parents via Teams invite
2 April	Easter Break
19 April	Second phase of teaching and assessment
23 April	Exam briefing for parents via Teams invite
28 May	Exam briefing for parents via Teams invite
31 May	Half term
11 June	Leavers day for years 11 and 13
18 June	Final submission of TAGs to the exam boards

I hope this clarifies our plans for the coming months to ensure that your child has the best possible outcomes and is ready to progress on to the next stage in their education or training. Please do not hesitate to contact me or your child's tutor or class teacher should you have any queries about this or any aspect of their achievement.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Mora
Assistant Head Teacher
Achievement