



Dear Parents/Carers

26th April 2021

Before we break up for Easter we wanted to give you a little more clarity with regards the next steps for assigning grades to students. In the spirit of absolute transparency, getting concrete information from Ofqual and exam boards has proven to be more of a challenge than we expected and so what we have planned is subject to some minor alterations.

We are currently auditing the evidence we have for each student and will be meeting all children to run through this straight after Easter. We have developed a clear timetable of events which is available with this letter. We are also putting on extra revision activities at Easter in preparation for the final push, again this is indicated in the information provided with this letter.

Whilst the FINAL submission date for grades is June 18th, we have a number of Quality Assurance activities that need to be timetabled in, therefore it is very likely that students will have a staggered finish depending upon the state of their evidence.

We want to ensure that we give every child as fair a chance to achieve their potential as we can, therefore, we pledge to work on gaining evidence for as long as it takes, so long as this pledge is matched by reciprocal effort from students.

This period of time is bound to be one of anxiety for many students due to the nature of this activity, but please rest assured that we will not allow any student to be disadvantaged by the circumstances that we are in.

Thank you all ever so much for your continued patience and understanding.

Damian Belshaw
Head of School



Awarding GCSE and A Levels Grades 2021

We are writing to update you on the current plans for awarding of grades to students this year. Whilst we still await final guidance from exam boards we are keen to give our students the maximum amount of time to prepare for the processes in the summer term. If any of our plans below change upon receiving final guidance from examination boards then we will communicate this to you at the start of the summer term. We hoped to have this advice last week but have now been told to expect it after Easter.

How grades will be determined

Unlike last year where grades were initially determined by an algorithm approach, this year all GCSE and A Level grades will be decided by teachers following guidance from exam boards.

As a school we will be tasked with collecting a range of evidence to support decisions. This evidence could come from a number of areas including previous mock examinations, in class assessments, classwork, homework and non-exam assessments (coursework), whether this be fully or partially completed.

The approach will vary across different subjects as some would usually be assessed entirely by examination, whilst some would have a partial or even entire courses assessed through non-exam assessment for example GCSE Art and Design.

In class assessments

In almost all subjects we intend to make use of in class assessments to aid grading decisions. In class assessments will occur in the classroom during the school day, supervised by teaching staff and under test conditions. We plan to issue a full timetable of these assessments at the start of the summer term and they will take place over a 3-week window from Monday 3rd May to Friday 21st May allowing sufficient time between assessments. All assessments would be a maximum of 1 hour and each subject would have between 1 and 3 assessments depending on the nature of the course. Students will **NOT** receive these assessments back or be told the scores they receive in them, instead they will be added to the collection of evidence we collect.

Those students with access arrangements e.g. the use of a time or extra time would still be entitled to and receive those arrangements for these assessments. As such they may use a different venue for their assessments but would still be supervised by teaching staff and complete them under test conditions.

To support further we will be offering revision sessions during the second week of the Easter holiday for some of the major subjects, focusing specifically on the same content that will be assessed.

On the final page of this document you will also find links to revision lists for all subjects that we anticipate having assessments.



Timeline

Below is our intended timeline for the remainder of the school year. Some dates or information could change when we receive finalised guidance from exam boards.

Date	Focus/Information
Week beginning Monday 5 th April	Easter holiday revision sessions (See next section)
Week beginning Monday 12 th April	In School Revision Lessons focussed on collecting evidence and preparing for assessments.
Week beginning Monday 19 th April	
Week beginning Monday 26 th April	
Week beginning Monday 3 rd May	Assessment Weeks Lessons continue but in class assessments take place during the school day.
Week beginning Monday 10 th May	
Week beginning Monday 17 th May	
Week beginning Monday 24 th May	School continues only for those students whom we need to collect additional evidence for or who have missed time since the March 21 return due to Covid isolation if this is requested.
Friday June 18 th	Grades submitted to exam boards
Tuesday 10 th August	A Level Results Day
Thursday 12 th August	GCSE Results Day



Easter Revision

During the second week of the Easter holiday we are able to provide some revision sessions specifically focussed on content that we intend to assess. Details of the sessions and times are below.

Students need not wear school uniform at the sessions and should come prepared with the usual equipment that they bring to school.

Punctuality is essential as the school reception will not operate as usual during the holiday period. If students arrive late they may have to wait a considerable time to be let into the site. For the morning sessions the gates will be open from 9:15am and closed again at 9:30am. Students are able to leave site and return for afternoon sessions but the gates will be open again for entry between 12:45pm and 1pm. Students are able to stay on site though if they wish but will need to bring their own packed lunch.

Date/Time	Subject
Tuesday 6 th April 9.30am – 12pm	History
Tuesday 6 th April 1pm – 3.30pm	Geography
Wednesday 7 th April 9.30am – 12pm	Maths
Wednesday 7 th April 1pm – 3.30pm	English
Thursday 8 th April 9.30am – 12pm	Science
Friday 9 th April 9.30am – 12pm	Computer Science

Revision List Links

By clicking on the subject below you will open up a revision list for that subject. The lists include the intended assessment content for each subject area.

English Language	History	Design Technology
English Literature	Geography	Food Technology
Maths	Computer Science	Textiles
Science	Music	German
Separate Science (Option)	Religious Studies	Drama