



2nd March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Year 11 assessments and examinations 2021 update

As Mr Pontifex has outlined in his letter this week, we now have a return to school date for Year 11 students. The government has now also announced more information on the process for awarding final grades to students, which is summarised below. However, it is important that both you and your child remain aware of the following as we prepare for this half term:

Examinations 2021 – key information at present

- All GCSE and vocational syllabi will be continued to be delivered as normal in line with our KS4 curriculum (see www.stjamesheadle.co.uk/curriculum for more details)
- Assessment in all subjects will be founded upon a teacher-assessed grade, **based upon all of the work completed in Year 10 and Year 11 thus far, and all work remaining to be completed before students leave**
- The government has published information for parents on the process for awarding centre-assessed grades which can be found at https://dfemedia.blog.gov.uk/2021/02/25/what-you-need-to-know-about-grades-in-2021/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery. We are still awaiting more information from the examination boards, and you and your child will receive more information on this process in due course

Easter Assessments - March 22nd - 26th and April 12th -16th

- As communicated to you in my letter before half term, there will be assessments in all subjects between **March 22nd - 26th and April 12th - 16th**. These assessments will provide more information for staff to further identify any gaps or misunderstandings in work completed since January 11th. They will also be used as part of the Year 10 and Year 11 evidence to inform the teacher-assessed grade later on this year
- As with the December mock examinations, assessments will be held either in the Sports Hall (and other rooms) or within lesson time. The timetable for assessments is included below, and has been carefully planned to 'straddle' the Easter break and support the well-being of our students. All students should come fully equipped each day, and please remember that due to Covid-19 restrictions, the school is unable to provide a calculator in examinations requiring one
- All subjects will communicate the topics to revise either in lessons or via Show My Homework in advance of the assessments

Supporting your child

This remains a challenging time for all of us – parents, staff and most of all our students. As always, there are many people in school who can support both you and your child during this time. Equally, as parents, it is important to remember the following points about how to support your child

- Speak to your child about what they are doing – this could be through asking them what they have done, testing them on what they have written etc
- Ensure that they have regular breaks and get a good night's sleep – work in chunks of time, turn off mobile phones and devices an hour in advance of going to bed
- At the same time, reassure them – at home and in school, we want to challenge our students to do their very best, but we also need to understand the stressful time that we have all gone through (and continue to go through)



Assessments Timetable

The assessments below will be held in the Sports Hall or other rooms (as per the December mock examinations), **and will begin at 8.45am unless otherwise stated**. All other assessments will be held in lesson times, and these will be communicated separately to pupils.

Date and time of assessment	Subject	Length of assessment
Monday 22nd March	Mathematics Paper 1	1 hr 30 minutes
Monday 22nd March 11.15am	French Writing	1 hr 5/20 minutes
Tuesday 23rd March 8.45am	English Literature	1 hr 45 minutes
	Drama	3 hours (time to be confirmed)
Wednesday 24th March	Mathematics Paper 2	1 hr 30 minutes
Wednesday 24th March 11.15am	Food and Nutrition	1 hr
Thursday 25th March	Biology	1 hr 15/45 minutes
Friday 26th March	English Language	1 hr 45 minutes
Monday 12th April	RE	1 hr 30 minutes
Tuesday 13th April	Chemistry	1 hr 15 /45 minutes
Wednesday 14th April	Mathematics Paper 3	1 hr 30 minutes
Wednesday 14th April 11.15am	Business	1 hr
Thursday 15th April	Physics	1 hr 15 / 45 minutes
Friday 16th April	Design and Technology (Resistant Materials)	2 hours
Tuesday 20th April	Art	3 hours
Wednesday 21st April	Music	3 hours

Yours faithfully,

Dr S Guscott
Deputy Headteacher