

26 February 2021

Dear Year 11/13 Parent/Carer

Teacher Assessed Grades

You may be aware that the initial findings of the consultation on how to award grades this summer have been published and we are currently digesting and consulting with staff on government guidance. We fully appreciate that these are uncertain and anxious times for students in Years 11 and 13. We also know that the students need to feel in control of their future in the remaining half of the academic year. We fully intend to ensure we do all students justice and support them in providing evidence of their full potential.

Mock Exams week beginning 22 March

As you are aware, we have scheduled a set of mock exams for the week beginning 22 March and these will go ahead as planned at all three schools in the town. All students have already been supplied with a list of topics to aid their revision. Students have been informed by the teachers of the ways in which we have adapted the normal trial exam papers in order to support the students to perform well in this most unusual year. This includes removing topics that have not been taught, adding additional support into the paper (such as providing some formulae) and, where possible, providing a choice of questions to be answered. These are all new adaptations to make the trial exams this year more appropriate for the current time. We are confident that these additional measures give the students every chance to demonstrate what they can do well and support us with evidence to award grades they will be pleased with.

Further Assessment Opportunities

The outcomes of the mock exams in March will be analysed and fed back to the students. Each student will then have a clear view of what needs to be done to further improve on that grade. Students will then have some time to undertake further learning, before we gather any other assessment information. This will provide further opportunity to demonstrate students' full potential before final grades are submitted to the exam boards.

Coursework and NEAs

Many courses have large pieces of work, formally assessed over time, as coursework or a non-examined element. These pieces of work will continue to be completed and formally assessed. Staff are looking at extending deadlines for submission where relevant to provide students with additional time for completion. Where time constraints have meant that some assessment objectives have not been covered, assessments will take this into account. Criteria not delivered by the teacher will be removed from the assessment and students will not be penalised.

And finally...

In terms of the formal assessment in March, we are mindful that some students will be feeling apprehensive about their return and the exams beginning soon afterwards. We will be sending a survey to the students next week to identify any concerns and working on a programme of support to be implemented on their return.

I hope this general overview of how we will do our level best to protect the students' interests and support them in gathering evidence of achievement provides some reassurance to our young adults.

Yours faithfully

N M Law
Headteacher