

Thursday, 18 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 11 GCSE Portfolio of Evidence - Assessments

As you know, summer exams have been cancelled in all subjects and final “centre-assessed grades” (CAGs) for students in Year 11 will be determined by teachers, based on a portfolio of evidence that has been gathered over the duration of the course.

We are following all guidance issued by the Department for Education and the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) for how to award CAGs to students and we will be collaborating with colleagues from other schools in our Trust, the Eastern Learning Alliance, to ensure our CAGs are accurate, robust and fair.

Your child will be completing assessments in timetabled lessons under the instruction and supervision of the classroom teacher from the week beginning 22nd March. These assessments may form part of our evidence base for awarding your child their CAG. These will not be whole examination papers, but shorter, concise assessments that provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate their skill or understanding in each subject. This will provide further evidence to that which we already have so that we may accurately determine the final CAGs in each of your child’s subjects.

So that you can support your child through this process with thorough revision, practice and preparation at home - the same as if these were the summer exams - we are sharing with you the [key titles of each assessment](#). Students will prepare for each assessment in lessons so 100% attendance is expected so that all students have the best opportunity to perform well. Students will be informed of the exact lesson each assessment will be in by class teachers. Please use the link here to see the timetable of which week assessments are occurring in. The dates are a guideline and some groups may have their assessment in the following week to ensure all students receive the same level of preparation.

For vocational subjects (PE Cambridge Nationals, Hospitality and Catering, Health and Social Care, Child Care, Engineering and Travel and Tourism), your child will continue to complete their portfolio of work in class from which the CAG will be determined.

We will shortly be sharing with you and your child the list of previous assessments (mock examinations, end of unit/topic assessments, coursework etc.) that may contribute to the portfolio of work that determines the CAGs. You will be invited to inform us of any exceptional circumstances that may have meant your child did not perform at their best for any specific assessment and if these meet the strict criteria usually applied by the exam boards, special consideration will be applied when arriving at the final CAG.



Exam access arrangements, for example a reader or a scribe, will be in place for students who are already entitled during the upcoming assessments. Exam access arrangements are required by the JCQ to be a student's normal way of working in school, as such all students have been assessed already and those who are entitled have these in place in-lessons and for formal assessments. If your child requires a reader they need to ensure they have headphones with them to plug into the reading pen.

GCSE results will be available to students on Thursday 12 August. Please do not contact your child's teachers regarding grades as we will not discuss these prior to the results day. There will be an appeals process for any student who is not happy with their CAGs; further details of which will be shared once the DfE have made these available to schools. As yet we do not have an end of year date for Year 11 so please do not book any holidays or time out of the school year.

Students have made a very positive return to school and we are impressed with their preparedness for learning. It is really important that this momentum continues with students being in school, on time and fully equipped for every lesson. By working hard and focusing on the upcoming weeks students can pull together to ensure positive outcomes.

Kind regards

David Hewett

Deputy Headteacher