

12 March 2021



Ralph Allen School

Respect • Teamwork • Personal Best

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing with mixed feelings about the return to school. It is fantastic to have students back in with lots of safety precautions in place, but we have had to follow Government guidelines about testing. As a result of a number of positive cases, we have had to unfortunately ask some students to self-isolate. We are setting work online for our students who are not in school, however we are not able to deliver online interactive lessons whilst teaching in school. We will maintain an online tutor time check in for students where a whole tutor group has been asked to self-isolate.

These tutor groups are 11Dr1, 11Px1 and 11Pg2.

Year 11 examinations

A further Government consultation on examinations and the replacement arrangements closed yesterday. We hope further guidance will be outlined soon.

Students will be given a number of opportunities to provide evidence for their final grade. No one piece of work will be used in determining a student's grade. It will be a combination of assessed work over the course of their GCSE.

- Formal assessments will take place in term 5
- No further subject content will be taught from Monday 22 March. Lessons will be used to prepare students for their spring assessments
- Full examinations access will be provided for their formal assessments

Assessments used

We are guided by offering the best opportunities for our students to succeed. To do this we will be using a broad range of evidence to support the grade. This includes;

- Student work produced in response to assessment materials provided by the exam board, including groups of questions, past papers or similar materials such as practice or sample papers
- Non-exam assessment (NEA) work (often referred to as coursework), even if this has not been fully completed
- Student work produced in centre-devised tasks that reflect the specification, that follow the same format as exam board materials and have been marked in a way that reflects exam board mark schemes - This can include:

- Substantial class or homework (including those that took place during remote learning)
- Internal tests taken by pupils
- Mock exams taken over the course of study

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- records of a student's capability and performance over the course of study in performance-based subjects such as Music, Drama and PE

To confirm, no one piece of evidence or examination will indicate the final grade for a student. Each grade will be awarded from a number of pieces in each area. These will include formal assessments using unseen materials that will be provided by each examining board.

Moderation

Each department will moderate the work in their subject and teachers will mark samples of each other's work. All decisions will be made with another member of staff and verified by the Head of subject.

Results days

AS and A level - **Tuesday 10 August**

GCSE – **Thursday 12 August**

Appeals

If a student is unhappy with their grade, they can do the following;

- Firstly, ask if a clerical error has been made
- If no error has been made, they can ask the school to appeal on their behalf. This will involve showing the process and the evidence they used to make their judgement.
- If they are still unsuccessful an Autumn series will be available

Final support

Examinations access support will be given to all eligible students for assessments that will be used as evidence for their final grade.

At the end of this term, students will be given a current grade on recent work. This is not their final grade. The final grade will be calculated using a range of evidence over the two years.

The wellbeing of our students is very important to us and the robust systems we will be using have considered their experiences through lockdown and the support they need for their final assessments. I have spoken to individual classes about the process and fielded any questions they have had.

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I have a meeting with all the secondary school Headteachers' on Monday where we have agreed we will share our plans for a more consistent approach on when students will leave.

There will be more information to follow next week.

With kind regards

A small square box containing a handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'A. Greenhough'.

Andy Greenhough
Headteacher

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