

26 May 2021



Ralph Allen School

Respect • Teamwork • Personal Best

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are at the end of your son/daughter's education time at Ralph Allen which seems all too fast. It has been a pleasure to watch your children grow into the wonderful people they are now. Their path has been different as the last few years have been very difficult for the whole community and we recognise that the students have had to contend with a great deal of change and uncertainty. Despite all these difficulties they have been resilient and persevered through the challenges.

Below is some final key information.

Assessments

We have been guided by offering a selection of best practice across subjects to give our students ample opportunities 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*
- *Records of a student's capability and performance over the course of study in performance-based subjects such as music, drama and PE*

No one piece of evidence or examination will indicate the final grade for a student. Each grade will be because of a number of pieces in each area.

These have included formal assessments using materials that were provided by each examining board.

Parent communication

This is a very difficult process, and we ask that parents do not enquire about the final grades that will be awarded. We are not at liberty to divulge these grades and teachers should not be put under pressure about final grades.

Moderation and standardisation

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. The extra Inset day was vital in supporting this process.

Headteacher: Andy Greenhough BSC (Hons) | Deputy Headteacher: John Chantry BA (Hons)

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Results days

AS and A level – Tuesday 10 August

Further information will be received but we anticipate that these will be collected in school. Results will be shown on Insight later in the day for those who cannot attend.

Support with UCAS will be available on 10 August in the Lee Centre.

Appeals

If a student is unhappy with their grade, they can:

- 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.

End of Term 5

Their final day at Ralph Allen is today, Wednesday 26 May. All assessments have now been completed. This final day will be a last chance to celebrate their time here. The day will be as follows:

Period 1 - a review of sixth form in tutor groups.

Period 2 - T-shirt making followed by a final assembly period 3. The students will then all have lunch together in the Lee Centre and opportunities to take photos. Students will then they will leave the site at 1.10pm. The school buses will still be leaving at 3.15pm. If this is the only method of transport, we will provide a space for students to wait until the end of the day in the Lee Centre.

Final message

Teachers at Ralph Allen are in such a privileged position that we can work with your sons and daughters. This is why we are all in education to support, nurture and challenge, in cooperation with parents, to prepare students for final assessments and to make a positive contribution to society. The 6th form lessons are so enjoyable, and many strong relationships have been built with them.

I always have mixed feelings at this point. I am happy that the students have matured and become the people they are, but we also have to say goodbye. This is only the beginning of their journey though and it is exciting in many ways. Wherever life takes them we wish them luck and ask that they check in from time to time to update us on their journey.

Thank you for choosing Ralph Allen for this part of their education. They have been awesome and genuinely have enriched our lives.

With kind regards

Andy Greenhough

Headteacher

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