



11<sup>th</sup> March 2021

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Dear Parents/Guardians of Year 11 and Year 13 Students

Further to Mr Warwood's letter of 9/3/21 regarding the process of awarding grades for GCSE, Vocational qualifications and A Levels this summer, we would now like to share with you information about the revision lists and dates of the assessments.

### **How will revision lists be communicated?**

All revision lists will be published first on Edulink. This will appear as a 'homework' set by the Head of Subject. The revision lists may not appear at the top of the Edulink 'homework' list - so your child may need to scroll down their homework list to find them. Some subjects have published their revision lists already; the rest will appear on Edulink by Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March. In summary the revision lists will be released as follows:

- Revision lists for assessment 1 - published by Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March
- Revision lists for the rest of the assessments - published by Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March

We want to release the revision lists as soon as we can and Edulink enables us to achieve that.

We do, however, recognise that very quickly, particularly for GCSE subjects, the amount of Edulink 'homeworks' relating to revision lists can become confusing. So to help with this we are also collating all of that information across all subjects in every department. We are developing a new webpage on our website specifically dedicated to the Teacher Assessed Grade (TAG) process where, shortly after the 19<sup>th</sup> March, all the revision lists for all assessments will appear in that area of the website, as well as on Edulink.

### **What will be in the revision lists?**

The revision lists will reflect the content that will be included in the assessments. The revision lists provide clear guidance as to the topics areas that will be assessed. The content of those assessments has been carefully selected to allow students to demonstrate their potential and not to be disadvantaged in any way.

In some subjects pre-release material will also be provided, or equation sheets. Fresh copies will be provided for use in the assessments where applicable.

### **How will the dates of assessments be communicated?**

The dates for each assessment will also be published on Edulink along with the revision lists.

Again all that information will be collected and published on our new TAG webpage as soon as possible.



### **When are the assessments taking place?**

As mentioned in the previous letter, assessments are not taking place in an 'examination hall'. We are not halting the teaching timetable to carry out examination style assessments as this would have caused disruption to revision and made the assessments feel more like examinations - which they are not. Again, these assessments are to inform our teacher judgements.

Instead, assessments are scheduled to take place on a specific lesson within the fortnightly teaching cycle. This means that students will take the assessments in class and sometimes at different times to their peers.

We understand that these differences in timing may cause some concern in terms of students being able to communicate the content of particular assessments with each other. We are mitigating that by publishing revision lists in advance. The revision lists provide clear guidance as to the topic areas that will be assessed. Please do check that your child has seen the revision lists and understands their significance in terms of an accurate outline of what will be included in each assessment. In addition to this, assessments do not contain material from one exam series alone, for example an assessment will not be 'a paper 1 from the June 2019 series'. Assessments will contain past paper material across several years.

A few assessments will take place very slightly earlier than previously communicated; this is as some subjects need to start their revision lessons a little earlier to account for the lessons that would be missed on two upcoming Bank Holidays - Friday 2/4/21 and Monday 3/5/21. This will not disadvantage any students as they will now still have the same amount of revision lessons. In the section below we explain a little more about how your child is being supported with preparation and revision lessons in school.

### **Will these assessments cover the entire course?**

The Ofqual guidance is very clear that schools should not attempt to assess the entire course. We have carefully constructed assessments to allow students to demonstrate their potential and not to be disadvantaged in any way.

The full course will not be assessed for any subject.

You will be able to see clearly from the revision lists how much of the course is being assessed.

### **What revision support is my child getting?**

This week and early next week your child will begin a process of 'recover' and 'revise' lessons building up to an assessment. Then the process is repeated until all assessments are complete.

A summary of that process is outlined below:

- Recover lessons:
  - The content of these lessons reflects the content of the next assessment
  - The focus will be on recapping the basics needed to access the revision lessons and will be tailored to the need of the class

- Revise lessons
  - Subject teachers have worked together to resource these lessons, so that all students revise the content and skills in such a way that will best prepare them for the forthcoming assessment
  
- Assessment (during lesson)
  - Each assessment will typically be 40 minutes in length. A minority may be slightly longer in Year 13.
  - The 40 minute length has been selected to enable students to succeed and to be easy to administer within a 1 hour lesson, including any allowance for additional time.

We are still awaiting further guidance regarding vocational qualifications; we will write to you again with further details when we have received this and had a chance to formulate a TAG process for those subjects.

At this stage you and your child may have additional questions. Within the new TAG webpage we are arranging, we will publish all the revision lists, assessment dates and other useful information, including copies of letters sent to you. As soon as this is ready we will write to you again.

In Mr Warwood's previous letter we advised about arranging a webinar, for us to answer questions you may have about the process and how grades will be awarded and what evidence, in addition to the assessments, we will be using to inform that process. Information about the webinar and how to submit questions will be sent to you during the week commencing 22nd March.

Yours sincerely



**Miss L Page**  
Deputy Headteacher