

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The Green Road, Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 1EP

Tel: 01335 343 685 Email: enquiries@qegs.email Twitter: @qegs_ashbourne

Web: www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr S Garrity Chair of Governors: Mr C Smith



8th February 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

Assessment Plans for Yr11 and Yr13

We have a well-established approach to assessment at QEGS. Our expectations are that all students, in all year groups, have at least 1 graded/assessed piece of work per half-term. Along with 'mock exams', this routine and regularity ensures that our teachers build up a good picture of a students' ability, knowledge and understanding. This then helps inform assessment decisions, predictions and if required (as was required last year), Centre Assessed Grades for students' results.

The exams for 2021 have been cancelled and whilst we await the outcome of the Ofqual consultation on how grades will be awarded, we know already that schools will be expected to provide evidence of a students' ability and performance in each course and subject. Whilst remote learning presents many challenges, we want to ensure that we add to the 'evidence base' this term and stay true to our assessment principles of assessing 'little and often'.

Therefore, we have collaborated with our fellow Trust secondary schools and decided to run 'Assessment Windows' for all Year 11 and Year 13 students across the Trust. This collaborative approach will add rigour and credibility to the setting of assessments, moderation and awarding of grades.

The forthcoming assessments will have **no additional weighting to any other assessment** and will simply form part of the evidence basis for final grades this summer. The assessments will take place either **online for Year 11** or **possibly in school for Year 13**, this will be confirmed nearer to the time and in conjunction with any Government decision regarding the reopening of schools for face to face teaching.

Assessments will be no more than one hour in duration and will include exam style questions to assess the students' knowledge of a specific area/topic from the course. The details regarding the structure and scope of the assessments will be confirmed by Year 11 and 13 teachers, to allow students the opportunity to plan and prepare for their assessments effectively.

Year 11 Assessment Window: Wed 24th Feb – Fri 5th March 2021

Year 11 Assessment Timetable					
<i>All assessments will last 60 minutes except when noted below.</i>					
Day	09.05	10.05	11.15	12.15	1.40
Wednesday 24 th February	Maths [ABA]	Revision Time	English Lit [NST] 45 min	Revision Time	Revision Time
Thursday 25 th February	History [ERO, CFL, AHR]		Religious Studies [NMC]		Revision Time
Friday 26 th February	Further Maths [CWN]		English Lang [NST] 45 min		Music [DRO] 30 min
Monday 1 st March	English Lang [NST] 50 min		Business Studies [KHO]		Revision Time
Tuesday 2 nd March	Maths [IGR, THY]		PE [BHA]		Revision Time
Wednesday 3 rd March	Science [EHI]		DI [SPH] [SFL]		Revision Time
Thursday 4 th March	Geography [KED]		Computer Sci [JIL]		MFL [SBI] 40 min
Friday 5 th March	MFL [SBI] 50 min		Childcare [SBE]		Revision Time

Year 13 Assessment Window: Mon 15th March – Thurs 25th March 2021

Year 13 assessment timetable will be issued later this week.

Further Support and Information:

- **An assessment timetable for Year 11 is above**, informing students when their assessments will take place for each subject. Students **will not** follow their normal lesson timetable during these 'windows' and there will be gaps between assessments to ensure students are supported to be able to revise and prepare if completing assessments remotely. **The Year 13 assessment timetable** will follow the same principles and **will be issued later this week**.
- Further details on how questions will be issued and how students will submit answers will be provided in the next few days.
- **Subject revision topics and prior notice of assessment themes** will be issued to all Year 11 and Year 13 students on **Tuesday 9th February 2021 via students' TEAMS classes** for each subject.
- There will also be a **'TEAMS live event' for Year 11 and Year 13 parents and students at 7pm on Thursday 11th February** to hear from Headteacher Mr Garrity, Head of Sixth Form Mrs Allen, Year 11 Progress Leader Mrs Bowbanks. This will include a **live Q and A** for you to find out any other details about our assessment plans.
- **Support and training for students** on 'download and upload' of assessments will be provided as well as alternative routes for submission with no technology required. Further details to follow.
- There will also be support for students with **revision techniques** and preparation for the assessments. This will be **provided via normal timetabled lessons prior to the assessments**.
- It is important that all **students attend all lessons prior to and following the assessment** windows, ensuring they are well prepared for assessments and then can subsequently receive clear feedback.

Vocational Subject Information

We have a range of vocational subjects at KS4 and KS5. The nature of assessments for these subjects differ from GCSEs and A Levels in that they are assessed by individual units which go together to give an overall grade. Some of these units are internally assessed (assessed by teachers and moderated by the exam board) these will go ahead and be assessed as they would in any year and are largely unaffected.

The external units assessed by exam may have already been completed in which case the student will have a grade for these. If they have been affected by the January exam cancellations or the forthcoming summer series exam cancellation, teachers may be asked to give a grade for these units. Further details on these are pending the consultation.

Class teachers will have already gathered evidence and will continue to gather evidence to enable an accurate grade to be given for external units if required over the next few months. Due to the unit by unit nature of these courses it may not be appropriate for all subjects to use these 'assessment weeks'. **Details on planned assessments will be given by the class teachers on a subject by subject basis.**

True or False?

- *The grades from these assessments will be what grade my child receives in the summer* – **FALSE**. These grades will be part of the evidence base to be used to inform the process for grade awards, no single assessment will form the basis for a final grade.
- *It is important for my child to try their best in these assessments* – **TRUE**. It is important that your child gives their best in any assessment scenario. The DfE have stated that students will receive the grades they deserve. Therefore, we want to be sure that we have as much evidence as possible to support this process.
- *These assessments are not important* – **FALSE**. All assessment evidence will be used to inform the process for awarding grades and assessment evidence will be required from each school term.
- *It is too late to make a difference and try* – **FALSE**. We are 4-5 months away from the final grade submission (depending on consultation outcome). All students have enough time and the available support from school to make a difference to their potential grades.

For many students the prospect of any assessment helps to sharpen their mind, become more focused and motivate them to want to achieve their best. Some students can also feel anxious and worried by assessments. In fact, feeling slightly nervous is absolutely normal. Yes, these assessments are to test and challenge our students. However, to reiterate these assessments carry no additional weighting and simply form part of our typical assessment schedule. The challenge is that we are having to implement them in a slightly different way.

We look forward to you attending our TEAMS live event and Q and A on Thursday 11th February at 7pm, joining details can be found below.

Microsoft Teams

To join the **Year 11 and 13 Assessment Q and A** on Thursday 11th February at 7pm, please click on the link below:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NWFiNDA1NjctODZkYS00ZjA5LTIiZjctNDNiZWm1OTI0ZTAw%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%221bb0803d-e974-42b6-9425-010adc1cae6a%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%228e1d68be-00ca-4a27-8cbd-6868487c02a7%22%2c%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3atrue%7d

We wish all of our students the best of luck, we know they can do it!

Take care.

Yours faithfully

Scott Garrity
Headteacher