



3rd March 2021

Mb/2020-21/Letter to Yr 13 parents re March Assessments

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 13 Students

This is the information we have sent to students today as an update on March assessments.

Version 2 – updated following results of Ofqual/DfE consultation

These assessments will be known as March Assessments

Which subjects will have an assessment?

- All A-levels except Art & Photography
- Vocational courses – Drama and Media only

How long will each assessment last?

- 2 hours - each subject will have just one assessment.

What will be assessed?

- We will assess content from Years 12 and 13, focusing on Year 13 content from terms 1 and 2.

What will the assessment consist of?

- Exam questions

When will we know what to revise?

- We will tell you the content of the assessments **as soon as possible** and no later than Wednesday 10th March.
- We will tell you in detail which topics to revise.

Supporting your preparation

- Homework until the assessments take place will focus only on revision and preparation for the assessments.
- Teachers can set homework, but they will be aware that some of you prefer to take control of your revision yourself.
- Teachers might spend some time in lessons preparing you for these assessments.
- Study leave arrangements for these assessments:
 - There will be study leave during the March assessment period, with no scheduled lessons for A-level subjects. Class teachers have been asked to be available for support during normal lesson time, please contact them in advance if you would like their support.
 - Vocational subject lessons will continue if needed – please see direction that will be provided by individual vocational subject teachers.

What is the timetable for these assessments?

- We have rearranged the timetable so that all students taking a subject will sit their assessment at the same time.
- This means that we will use 4 days rather than 2.

Day	Morning (8:45am)	Afternoon (12:15pm)
Wednesday 24.03.21	Biology, Computer Science, Politics	English Language, Maths
Thursday 25.03.21	Psychology, Physics	History, Geography
Friday 26.03.21	Business Studies, Latin, Further Maths, Sociology, D&T, Spanish, Media	Classics, Economics, French
Monday 29.03.21	Religious Studies, Maths Studies, German, Drama	English Literature, Chemistry

- There will be a small number of clashes where some students are timetabled to sit two assessments at the same time.
- We know about these clashes and we will resolve them for you.

Where will these assessments take place?

- In the Sports Hall or Dance Studio, with access arrangements in G182
- Assessments will run under invigilated conditions
- You will receive an Assessment Timetable from the Exams Office showing you the room for each assessment and your seat number

Access arrangements

- All students entitled to access arrangements will be given these.
- We are using some new software to facilitate these arrangements and Year 13 students will be trained to use this on 16th March.

Will these assessments count towards final grades this summer?

- Yes

Next steps for assessment

- Students will sit more assessments in May.
- We are currently working out the details, but we expect to run an assessment session very similar to the one in March, beginning on 13th May.

Grades

- There are many different names for grades that we use to predict or measure each student's performance.
- This year we will have to submit a Teacher Assessed Grade (TAG) for each subject to the exam board.

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- The TAG will be determined by teachers following rigorous quality assurance processes. (We are currently working out the details of these processes.)
- The TAG must be based on a range of evidence of performance.
- We have been issued with draft guidance about what evidence can be used and we are working out what evidence we will consider.
- We have issued other types of grades this year in reports.

Grade name	Type of grade	Notes
UCAS grade	Teacher prediction	This grade is typically optimistic and will not always be based on strong evidence. It is more a grade a student could get, rather than what we think they should get.
Most likely outcome	Teacher prediction	Teachers judge the grade they think a student would be most likely to achieve at the end of the course, based on the evidence they have seen and taking account of the progress they expect a student to make.
Mock grade	Current grade	The mock exam marked in October was graded by using exam board grade boundaries
Target grade	Based on GCSE results	We use national data to give an indication of the grade each student would expect to achieve based on their GCSE results.

- Teachers will often also give current grades for tests, essays, or other pieces of work.

Guidance for Year 13 Parents' Evening

- We have asked teachers to focus their conversations on how each student can improve their performance in the March assessments.
- We would not expect conversations to focus on grades.
- Please contact Mrs Joyce or Mrs Haig-Williams if you have questions or comments about our systems.

Yours sincerely

G Joyce

Mrs G Joyce

Head of Year 13