

Ref: GWA/LWO

5 March 2021



Dear Y11 and Y13 Families and Students

*(We are also sending to all Y12 students/parents, however, this only applies to those students taking Core Maths, Business or Health and Social Care).*

### **Examinations 2021**

When I last wrote to you at the beginning of February, the Government had just finished a national consultation process around exam assessments for Summer 2021. The outcome of the consultation, that received over 100,000 responses from students, parents and educational professionals was published on 22 February and is one which was warmly welcomed. There is little, if anything, in what follows that will come as a surprise given that we had largely predicted the likely direction of travel.

Teacher assessment, based on a range of evidence, will determine students' grades this summer. Teachers will take into account evidence from internal assessments, mock exams, practical assessments and coursework in coming to a final, submitted grade. Unlike last summer, there will be no complex algorithm which created significant difficulties and, in the end, was ditched.

I firmly believe that students and parents should be suitably reassured with these proposals, with trust being placed firmly in the hands of teachers. Assessment will rightly focus purely on subject content that has been covered and the bulk of the next seven school weeks will involve students revisiting content that has already been taught.

My updates from 7 January, stated that a second set of formal mock examinations would take place in the summer term. This had always been the plan from the outset and this remains the case. These follow on from mocks that were taken before Christmas and a second set had always been on the school calendar. Unlike last year's cohorts, Y11 and Y13 students this year are in the fortunate position of being able to return to school, demonstrate their skills, engage in practical assessments and showcase their wide-ranging talents and competencies. The results from these mocks will be used together with other assessment evidence to help us finalise the grades submitted to the examination boards. More practical details, including an outline timetable for the next few weeks, will be shared in due course by subject teachers and our Deputy Head, Mr Adams.

Results days, too, have been brought forward to 10 August (A Level) and 12 August (GCSE). This, too, is to be welcomed and will both help smooth the transition process to Post 16 or Post 18 destinations and allow for the submission of appeals.

I am confident that, like last year, we can assess your children fairly and accurately with considerable internal and external quality assurance measures in place and that they will go on to the next stage in their educational journey with the minimum of fuss. Whilst we will endeavour to protect their emotional health and well being, the next few weeks will inevitably come with a degree of anxiety. Our experienced team of staff will do everything they can to ensure your children's life chances are not unfairly compromised as a result of the pandemic and offer them the high standard of pastoral care in which we take great pride.

If you have immediate concerns then please direct them to the relevant Head of Year who is best placed to answer your queries in the first instance. **Y11:** Mr Fair [edward.fair@tewkesburyschool.org](mailto:edward.fair@tewkesburyschool.org) **Y12:** Miss Waters [rachael.waters@tewkesburyschool.org](mailto:rachael.waters@tewkesburyschool.org) **Y13:** Mr Thomson [chris.thomson@tewkesburyschool.org](mailto:chris.thomson@tewkesburyschool.org)

With very best wishes

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