

## Summer assessments 2021

### Parent and student FAQs

The following questions have been collated from parent emails. All responses have a date stamp and are accurate at the time of writing. As further information becomes available, we will refine and update these responses accordingly

<p>Why are the students having to sit formal assessments when they didn't have to last year?</p>	<p>8th March The most rigorous evidence about where the students are currently performing is that which is produced in high control conditions using exam board materials. OFQUAL suggests that the most recent evidence is preferable.</p> <p>In 2020 centre assessed grades were based around teacher judgements to give a predicted grade. Ofqual then used this data to produce grades for each child. This year we are required to use a range of objective evidence to give a current grade based on what's been studied. However, it is important to remember that the final grades are not awarded by the school. Grades will be awarded by the examination boards in August.</p>
<p>Assessments in the hall are just the same as doing exams. Why is the school doing GCSEs by stealth?</p>	<p>8th March The formal assessments are one element (not the only one) of how we will arrive at a final grade. They are reduced in terms of time and content, and we are in control of what we put into those assessments using exam board materials. We can advise students what they should and shouldn't revise.</p> <p>Delivering assessments in our hall allows for students to all sit the exam at the same time in the same controlled conditions. This provides the necessary rigour required in order to make our formal assessment informative.</p>
<p>Why is the school using exam board material when it doesn't have to?</p>	<p>8th March (updated 15/3) We will be able to select the exam board material we use in our assessments so we can control the questions which are being asked. Also, the exam board material we hope is made available to us provides a bank of appropriate questions relevant to the topics which our students have had access to. We are told that exam boards will issue grade descriptors and example answers to help teachers make sure their assessments are fair and consistent.</p>
<p>Why are the children doing two papers for each subject?</p>	<p>8th March (updated 15/3) To enable students to produce evidence of their achievement across a range of concepts and content which they have had access to. Depending on the coursework (NEA) content of the specification, some subjects will not set two papers and the maximum length of any one paper will be 90 minutes.</p>
<p>When will we know the exact dates of the formal assessments?</p>	<p>8th March (updated 15/3) We are currently working on this, and will publish a formal assessment calendar w/c 22nd March.</p>

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When will my child be told what to revise and what not to revise for each subject?	8th March (updated 15/3) Each subject leader is working with the exam board to determine the range of evidence that is allowed to be used. We will publish a subject by subject breakdown w/c 22/3
When will students be given time to revise in lessons ?	8th March After 1st April, no new content will be delivered by staff. All subjects will then be providing revision lessons and working on any Non-Examined Assessments (coursework). Wherever practical, revision materials will be posted on the google classroom.
Will the school put on revision classes during the Easter holiday?	8th March (updated 15/3) Yes. We are currently planning an Easter revision programme for the first week of the Easter Break. Students will be able to opt in to a number of sessions taking place between the 6th and 9th April. The exact dates and timings as well as a booking sheet will be available w/c 22/3
Will the assessments cover all of the specification or just part of it?	8th March Assessments will only cover materials which the students have had access to. Students will not be assessed on content that has not been made available to them.
How will you ensure that the formal assessments are marked fairly?	8th March (updated 15/3) We are putting extra steps in place, such as sampling, moderation, and anonymous scripts with candidate numbers only, to ensure valid and unbiased marking. We are working with a number of partner schools to quality assure our marking and assessment process
My child has SEND. Will the normal concessions be in place?	8th March Yes. The Learning Support team are working closely with our exams officer to ensure all students with Access Arrangements and Special Considerations are provided for.
I've heard that the monthly assessments in lockdown won't count for anything. Is this true?	8th March This is not true. The process that we have been asked to deliver does use 'high control' assessments as one of the pieces of evidence. This means that they are delivered under supervised conditions. However we will also use other evidence such as Non-Examined Assessments (coursework), work done in class and monthly assessments.
How much will the coursework element of each specification count?	8th March This varies between subjects, for example Art GCSE is 100% NEA (coursework) whereas other subjects have a much lower NEA weighting. A more detailed breakdown of this for each subject area will be produced as soon as we get further guidance from the examination boards.
What happens if my child has a positive covid test or is ill during the formal assessment phase?	8th March We will have a bank of other evidence we can draw on throughout the two year course, and will apply this within the guidelines given to us from OFQUAL. If a student misses the formal assessments we will do our best

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	to make alternative arrangements.
When will the year 11 and 13 students not be expected to come into school?	8th March We are awaiting guidance from the Department of Education and will write out to you as soon as a decision has been reached.
What will happen after the formal assessment phase?	8th March Students may still need to finish any NEA work as the submission date for our data set to the examination boards is not until the 18th June. We are also planning some transition work for year 11 going into the 6th form. More details to follow.
Will the students have to come into school and college after the formal assessments?	8th March Yes. Until we have further guidance from the DFE about end of year dates for years 11 and 13.
Why have the final assessments been placed so early? Why not later?	8th March The dates are planned such that we have enough time to mark, moderate and standardise the assessments as well as conform to the exam board requirements for data submission.
What percentage will the formal assessments make up of our overall final grade?	8th March There is no one answer for this. It depends on the subject, if there is any NEA to account for etc.
When are the A level and GCSE results days?	8th March As set out by expectations from Ofqual, teachers will not be able to tell students' the grade submitted to the exam boards before results days. A level results day: August 10 GCSE results day: August 12