



26 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Update Covid-19 impact on exams 2021 and clarification of return from 8 March 2021

I am writing to let you know that the Government, Department for Education (DfE) and Ofqual have now published the outcome from the consultation on Examinations and Assessment 2021, held in January 2021. It has been an anxious time waiting to hear the decision following the announcement that exams were not to take place this summer; so I am sure like me it is a welcome relief to read that outcomes are to be based on work completed whilst at school since the start of Key Stage 4 courses.

The following is a link to the consultation and associated report:

[Consultation on how GCSE, AS and A level grades should be awarded in summer 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/examinations-and-assessment-2021)

In addition, the following link is a summary press release published yesterday:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/how-qualifications-will-be-awarded-in-2021>

Although the consultation document and the comments in the press release appear to be giving direction to school-based forms of assessment to determine grades for current Years 11 and 13 we await the publication of guidance documents direct to school. The press release yesterday made it clear that examination boards will be publishing detailed information before the end of this term on the quality assurance procedures they are using to allow schools to provide a validated grade. The following is a summary of the points in the report:

- Teachers must assess their students' performance, only on what content has been delivered to them by their teachers, to determine the grade each student should receive.
- Teachers can use evidence of a student's performance from throughout the course to inform their judgement.
- Teachers should determine the grades as late in the academic year as is practicable, and not confined to a defined window, to enable teaching to continue for as long as possible.
- Schools and colleges should use a broad range of evidence across the taught content to determine the grades before submitting the grades to the exam boards.
- Heads of centres will have to confirm that students have been taught sufficient content to allow progression to the next stage of their education, although we will not set requirements about the minimum amount of content that students must have been taught.
- Students should continue to work on their non-exam assessment (NEA), including for Project qualifications. NEA will be marked by teachers and will contribute to the overall grade, whether or not it has been completed, but we will not require exam boards to moderate it.
- In GCSE, AS and A level art and design, the student's grade must be based on the portfolio only, whether or not it has been completed.
- In GCSE English language, GCSE modern foreign languages and A level sciences (biology, chemistry, physics and geology), centres should determine and submit a separate grade or result for the endorsement. This result or grade should be based on work that has been completed towards the endorsement.

Remote Learning

Further to my letter of 24 February 2021, in which I outlined the dates that separate year groups are to return to school alongside the schedule for testing using Lateral Flow Tests, I wish to stress the

importance of continuing with Remote Learning. Our teachers are continuing to both prepare and deliver live lessons and as has been made clear in the outcome from the consultation on exams and assessments, the continuation of work to support any assessment being made is important. Therefore, we expect pupils, where they can continue to do so, to remain engaged in their remote learning as we go through the phased process for a full return to school.


Clarification on the return to school from 8 March 2021

Again, further to my letter of 8 March 2021, I wish to clarify some of the detail around the phased return:

- Vulnerable and children of critical workers who have been in school during this lockdown and who are currently registered to be in school will continue, as they have been, to come into school from 8 March 2021; their timetable of lessons will need to be adjusted as we work through the phased return by year group
- As the individual year groups return on a phased basis, vulnerable and children of critical workers will re-join their year group bubble
- On the first session that pupils return, they will go to their form class until the Lateral Flow Tests have been completed so we are able to respond in the event of a positive test
- All members of staff will be in school from 8 March 2021 to support the logistical arrangements of having in school, vulnerable and children of critical workers in all years, pupils in Year 11 and students in Years 12 and 13
- During the week of 8 March 2021, it will not be possible to always follow the published timetable by year group, but we will endeavour to return to timetabled lessons as soon as is possible as we work through the phased return. For example, Year 11 will return at 9.15am on Monday 8 March 2021 and go to their form class; it is expected that on Monday 8 March 2021, Year 11 pupils will not follow their usual timetabled lessons but will be involved in welfare checks and personal reviews during the period of time it takes to complete Lateral Flow Tests for their year group. Once these are completed, we anticipate Year 11 pupils will return to timetabled lessons from period 3 onwards
- This process, detailed in the previous point, will be followed for all year groups except Sixth Form who will not have lessons on Monday 8 March 2021
- If pupils have PE on the day they return to school, depending on when they have PE during the day, they may have that lesson and so should return to school wearing their PE kit as they did in the autumn term. For example, when Year 10 return on Tuesday 9 March 2021, 10 C Band have PE timetabled period 1 but they will not have PE as this is one of the periods being used for Lateral Flow Tests so, all Year 10 pupils on Tuesday 9 March 2021 should be in school uniform
- The Yellow Bus Service will resume from 8 March 2021

Once again, I appreciate there is a lot of information in this letter and it may appear a little contradictory in places, but we are working within the guidance issued by Government and the DfE. Once again, I wish to thank you for your continued support and understanding as we respond to the advice and guidance published to school.

Yours sincerely



Ian Morrel

Headteacher