

Tuesday 23 February 2021

Year 11 parents' consultation day on Wednesday 3 March

Dear parents and carers,

In light of the cancellation of the summer exams and the uncertainty this has caused about GCSEs, we will be running a Year 11 parents' consultation day on Wednesday 3 March in order to discuss student progress.

As a result of the current COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on our staff and community, we will be running this event virtually from 9:00 to 19:00. To allow this event to run smoothly, we have asked our Year 11 teachers to make themselves fully available for this consultation by setting assignments or pre-recorded lessons for their classes on that day.

We will be sending you a link to make your appointments with the Year 11 teachers you wish to see by the end of this week. We hope this will give you enough time to book your appointment before the event. It would be ideal if your son or daughter could be with you for all appointments so please consider which times would be best for you to all attend together.

To ensure availability for everyone, **we politely ask parents and carers to prioritise** the subjects they really need to discuss, as we are aware that many of you have already been in contact with some of our teachers.

If meetings overrun, the software will cut the call off to enable the next one to begin – we apologise if this occurs mid-sentence! In order to accommodate as many meetings as possible we must stick to strict timings of 5 minutes. This will also enable you to attend your meetings at the correct times without waiting for the previous meeting to finish.

Please be aware that our teachers will not be able to discuss TAGs with parents and students at this stage. Year 11 teachers will be able to discuss your son's or daughter's progress and recommend specific areas on which to focus to ensure further improvement. Please see the FAQ sheet below for more guidance ahead of your meetings.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support during these difficult times for everyone.

Yours faithfully,

Lowri Briggs
Progress Leader for Year 11

Kathryn Wittich-Jackson
Assistant Principal

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Principal: David James **Vice Principals:** Andrew Fisher Katherine Patterson Gary Wakefield

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FAQs for Parents – Year 11 Parents’ Consultation Day

Can staff discuss predicted grades?

No. They can confirm marks for individual assessments or marks/grades that have already been recorded i.e. those on previous census reports and target grades. Conversations should focus on whether expectations are being met, how work can be improved and attitudes to learning.

Can staff discuss ‘the current level at which our son/daughter is working’ or what ‘current grade’ they would give them?

No. Staff can only reiterate the mark/grade achieved for individual assessments so far. There are still several months to go before any judgement will be made about what standard a student is working at and staff cannot commit to grades at this point. There is still time and opportunity for your child to improve.

Will it be the subject teacher who decides a student’s grade?

Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) are being used this year so yes, the subject teacher will be heavily involved in the grading of the students they teach, but they will have to follow a robust process (to be confirmed once we have all the information from Ofqual) and their decision will be moderated based on the spread of evidence collated.

Will work they are completing now be used?

All work completed by students gives us a picture of how well students are working and meeting deadlines. Therefore, work that students are completing during lockdown and in the months ahead will continue to contribute to the evidence teachers will use to form their decisions on grades.

How can my child maximise their chances of doing well?

Continue to attend all lessons and work hard. Listen to teacher advice, and recognise they have several months of schooling left this year – all to play for. Prepare for formal assessments when they have them – we do not yet know when the next set of formal assessments will be, but we will communicate this to students and parents with plenty of notice.

How is this year different to last in terms of grading?

The situation for this year’s students is different to last years. Last year’s cohort were told in March that their academic year was over and there was nothing more they could do. Staff were then asked to project what they thought a student would have achieved. This year, students will continue to learn until the summer term and staff will be asked to decide the standard at which a student is working by then.