



Year 1 1 Bulletin

16/04/2021

Dear parents and carers,

It has been wonderful to see the students back to school this week; this is something I always took for granted before the pandemic, but certainly don't anymore. I hope they had a relaxing Easter break and are ready for the next challenge. I know there is some anxiety about this term's assessments so please do encourage your son/daughter to talk to teachers, myself or Mrs Wittich-Jackson about any concerns, either in person or via a Teams message if preferred. We are trying to reassure them by providing them with as much information as possible about the TAG process and the evidence being used.

TAGs

You will have received information from Mr Wakefield on 12th March and 12th April about the TAG process. Mrs Wittich-Jackson will be sending you the assessment timetable for this term.

I would ask you to please read the guidance that has been produced by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ), which was published during the Easter holidays. You can read the guidance here: [JCQ-Guidance-for-Students-and-Parents-on-Summer-2021.pdf](#)

Some of the points addressed in the document include:

- "Teachers will tell students which pieces of work will be used as evidence to inform their overall grade. They will have the opportunity to raise any concerns about the evidence being used, for example, if the evidence was affected by personal circumstances, such as illness. *Teachers will make the final judgement about what evidence is to be included.*"
- "No single piece of evidence will necessarily be more important than another, as the grade will be based on a range of evidence that can give an overall picture of performance."

Please continue reading on the following page for more information.

Upcoming Events

w/c 19th April

Extra-Curricular PE returns on-site.

3rd May 2021

Early May Bank Holiday

Student Reminders

Covid self- testing at home

Students should continue to self-test at home **on a Sunday and Wednesday**. Students were issued with seven test kits on Tuesday.

Free School Meals

We would like to remind parents about the availability of free school meals during these difficult times, should you be in need of financial support. Not only will this ensure that they receive a meal each day in school, but also means that the school receives a small extra pot of money ("pupil premium") that can be directly used to support your child with resources, equipment, trips (when they start happening again!), and so on.

You can apply for this directly through the council website using the following link:

[Free School Meals](#)

TAGs [Continued]

- “Once all the evidence is selected and assessments are complete, teachers will decide on an overall grade. [For example, If a student is performing consistently at a grade 6 standard in a subject, he/she should be awarded a grade 6]. It is important to say that much like with exams in normal years, the grades issued by teachers, schools and colleges will not take account of a student’s *potential*. They will be a snapshot of the standard he/she is *performing at* based on a wide range of evidence.”
- “Once a teacher has determined the grades, they will be reviewed by other teachers [by way of moderation], and by the school before submission.”
- “Teachers will not be able to tell students the grade they have submitted to the exam board.”
- TAGs will be submitted to the exam boards by 18th June.

Special consideration

If you think that your son/daughter’s performance in an assessment or in any school work has been affected, or will be affected, by illness or personal circumstances, please write to our exams officer, Mrs Man, on SMan@ccs.northants.sch.uk.

It is important that you raise any such instances before we submit our grades. We don’t currently have detailed guidelines on *how* personal circumstances will be taken into account, but we will be in touch about this.

Leaving date

Mrs Wittich-Jackson will confirm the official leaving date with you early next week. We are very grateful for your patience with this; we have only just been issued with guidelines from the DfE.

Year book, leavers hoodies and prom

We will be launching the year book and leavers hoodies next week, when Mrs Wittich-Jackson will send out further details. The cost of these will be:

Year book only: £12.20

Hoody only: £23.50

Year book and hoody combined order: £26.50

Payment will be made via ParentPay.

We are also continuing to make plans for Prom at Whittlebury on Friday 25th June. We are firming up plans and hope to communicate a price to you in the coming days. It will be in the region of £35 which is slightly cheaper than previous years, but we are trying to keep cost down as much as possible and will confirm plans next week.

High Performance Learning

The High Performance Learning focus for the week of 19th April is **Abstraction:**



'The ability to move from concrete to abstract very quickly'

Abstraction is the ability to move from a concrete to an abstract thought very quickly. For example, from one apple added to another apple making two apples, to the idea of one plus one equals two. You no longer need objects to prove the rule – you can work with an abstract concept, a number, an idea that doesn't need a physical presence. Reading a map but then understanding what turn to make at which junction to get home, is moving from a physical presence – the map- to an idea learned in your head – the route home from school. It will differ in how it manifests itself in varying interest areas – a visually motivated student can easily imagine what a room will look like in a different colour, while a linguistic one may spot patterns in poetry, for example. Concrete learning is the preliminary to abstract learning. Abstract learning is essential to high performance.

Conversation starters at home could be: 'tell me the stages you have to go through to.....' it can be any physical practise such a cooking a meal, designing a product in Design Technology, the steps for solving a mathematical problem, how to tackle a comprehension task and so on.

As always, if you have any concerns please do contact myself or Mrs Wittich-Jackson so that we can support your son/daughter in any way possible.

Thank you for your continued support, and stay safe.

Yours faithfully,

Lowri Briggs

Progress Leader for Year 11