



Year 11 Update for the Year Ahead

Dear parent/carer

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well. Firstly, I'd like to thank you for all the support you have given your child over the last 6 months, in incredibly challenging times; the year group has made an excellent and productive start to the year, in spite of the vast challenges they all face.

I am writing to update you on some of the changes that have been made by exam boards to the GCSEs your child is taking at school as well as a timeline to allow you to plan for the year ahead. I would have liked to have shared this information with you sooner, but we are still waiting on confirmation from the government as to when the summer GCSE exam window will be. This window still hasn't been confirmed which is very frustrating for all. In addition, given the current climate, some of these details could change depending on the government guidance, which we are following carefully.

Key Dates



	AUGUST 2020	SEPTEMBER 2020	OCTOBER 2020	NOVEMBER 2020	DECEMBER 2020	JANUARY 2021
Monday	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25
Tuesday	4 11 18 25	8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26
Wednesday	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27
Thursday	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28
Friday	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29
Saturday	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30
Sunday	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24 31

	FEBRUARY 2021	MARCH 2021	APRIL 2021	MAY 2021	JUNE 2021	JULY 2021
Monday	1 8 15 22	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26
Tuesday	2 9 16 23	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27
Wednesday	3 10 17 24	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28
Thursday	4 11 18 25	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29
Friday	5 12 19 26	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30
Saturday	6 13 20 27	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31
Sunday	7 14 21 28	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25

■ Bank Holiday	■ Report 2 Issued	■ Parents Evening	■ Mock Exam Period 2 (Core Only)	■ Potential GCSE Exam Window
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- W/B: 30th November: Year 11 Report 1 Issued
- Mon 18th January - Fri 29th January: Year 11 Mock Exam Period 1 (All subjects)
- W/B: 22nd February: Year 11 Report 2 Issued
- Wed 10th March: Year 11 Parents Evening
- Mon 12th April - Fri 16th April: Year 11 Mock Exam Period 2 (Core subjects only)
- Mon 7th June – Fri 9th July: GCSE Exam Period (Provisional – still to be confirmed by govt)

Given the current situation, we want our students to have as much high quality, in class teaching as possible. Teachers will be doing regular assessments in lessons (both low stakes quizzes and formative assessment as well as smaller tests) but given the time recently spent out of school and away from their teachers, we want the first 17 weeks of the academic year to be entirely dedicated to Teaching and Learning and catching up (if and where appropriate).

Changes to GCSE Assessment

Ofqual have informed us of changes to the terminal exams for each subject, to take into consideration the teaching and learning time lost to school closure. These have been summarised below. It's important to note that none of the specifications (what we teach) has been altered, but rather how they are assessed. This is often the coursework element, but does extend to some written exams too.

Subject	Exam Changes
Art	Assessment will be coursework only. There will be no 10 hour exam.
Event Operations and Hospitality & Catering	EO - Units 1 & 2 unchanged. Unit 3 - Students will not be required to plan, run and evaluate 3 events. H&C - Unit 1 unchanged. Unit 2 – Students only required to plan and produce 2 dishes in their practical exam instead of 4. This is during Term 1 of Y11 (Oct/Nov 2020)
Computer Science	The programming project can now take place outside of lesson time. Written exam remains the same.
Cooking	Awaiting Exam Board Confirmation
Child Development	Reduce number of assessments overall – from three units to two. For our students, this means not doing the child study visits.
Dance	For the performance assessment, students are not required to perform as part of a group. Written exam remains the same
DT (Product Design & Textiles)	NEA Coursework reduced to 85 marks. Practical outcome doesn't have to be fully realised but an understanding of manufacturing and processes should still be demonstrated. Written exam remains the same.
Drama	Students can perform a monologue for their two pieces of coursework. Written exam remains the same.
English Language	Written exam remains the same.
English Literature	Changes to the written exam: Students must answer the Shakespeare and Unseen Poetry components. As a school we have chosen An Inspector Calls and A Christmas Carol as our other components. (They will not be answering on Anthology Poetry.)
Food Prep & Nutrition	Only one piece of coursework now required (NEA2). Only 2 dishes will now be required in 3 hours. Written exam remains the same.
Geography	There are still 3 written exams, but the requirement to complete fieldwork has been removed. Paper 3 will have the questions on the pre-release booklet issued in March and questions on unseen fieldwork remain.
History	Changes to the written exam – students will only be examined on three of the four units from the <i>original</i> course (which have all now been covered in class)
Interactive Media	Awaiting Exam Board Confirmation
Maths	No Changes
MFL (French & German)	Speaking exam removed; this will now be an endorsement based on work students have done in class. Writing exam will have greater choice of questions. Listening and Reading exams remain unchanged. Equal weighting across the 3 remaining exams.
Music	For performance coursework: Students will now need to submit either one solo performance with a duration of at least a minute and a half, or one ensemble performance with a duration of at least two minutes. For composition coursework, Students will now need to compose one piece of music with a duration of at least two minutes. Compositions may be in response to a set brief or be freely composed. The deadline for both pieces of coursework is February half term.
PE	Coursework will be reduced to two activities. Written exam remains the same.
Psychology	No Changes
Religious Studies	No Changes
Science	Students no longer required to perform the core practicals, these can be observed instead. Written exam remains the same.

Mock Exams

We would like students to experience mock exam periods, as they would do in a normal year, however these will be at different times from the usual November and March times, due to the delay of the GCSEs. We will write to you closer to the time with more of the finer details (timetables, locations, access arrangements etc) when we have been given guidance by JCQ and Ofqual as to how to carry out testing safely and in line with their requirements.

Full access arrangements (extra time, readers, use of laptops etc) will of course be made available during mock exams as usual. If your child is entitled to these exam board delegated access arrangements, we will write to you separately detailing those. For students eligible for the use of a scribe, students will be given training as to how this will work given the Covid-19 restrictions.

In addition, for arrangements such as being seated at the back / front / near the door of the main exam hall due to anxiety or other need, we need to have a medical evidence letter or referral from the student's GP or other medical professional in order to be able to accommodate the request. It is important to stress that this is the instruction from JCQ (the Joint Council for Qualifications) in their [instructions](#) to schools, which we have to follow. If we could kindly request any letters / evidence by the 30th November, it would be greatly appreciated.

Catch Up Tutoring

The government has announced an allocation of funding to support children and young people to catch up. This sits alongside the National tutoring programme, which will provide additional support to schools to help disadvantaged pupils whose education has been most affected by the school closure.

The subjects included in the programme are: English, Maths, Science, Humanities (History/Geography) and MFL (French/German). We are in the process of assessing which students have been most disadvantaged by the school closure in this first half term, before it begins in November. The National Tutoring Programme can only be accessed by schools and more information is here: <https://nationaltutoring.org.uk/faqs>. These sessions will be before or after school although occasionally some may be able to be timetabled during the normal school day.

Study Skills and Revision

Each year we embark on a revision and study plus programme in Enrichment time, to teach our students how to revise and enable them to find the best way of recalling and using information that suits them. We have purchased Study Skills and Revision planners for all our students, which includes a free online version too. We will soon be rolling this provision out in form time to help prepare every student as best we can.

In addition, parents often ask us for recommendations for revision guides which are attached as a separate final list, with hyperlinks to the exact book embedded. Your child may already have some of these as some are already used in departments. This is certainly not a compulsory list, but rather a "go to list" of recommendations in one place.

We hope that you find this information useful; our aim as ever is to best support our students through these challenging times and again your continued support is very much appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

Andrew Hill
Vice Principal

Many of these revision guides come from either [CGP Books](#) or the [REVISE](#) series of revision resources, created by Pearson (trading name for Edexcel). Using discount code **16REVCC** on the Pearson site, discounts the prices by 50%. All links in [blue](#) hyperlink to the exact guide. Your child may already have many of these guides, as we use some for in class teaching purposes. As already mentioned, this is just a compilation of our recommendations and not a requirement.

Subject	Board	Useful Revision Resources
English Language	AQA	GCSE English Language AQA Revision Guide - for the Grade 9-1 Course
English Literature	AQA	New GCSE English Literature AQA Complete Revision & Practice Grade 9-1 GCSE English Text Guide - An Inspector Calls Grade 9-1 GCSE English Shakespeare Text Guide - Macbeth Grade 9-1 GCSE English Text Guide - A Christmas Carol
Maths	Edexcel	Collins 9-1 Maths Revision Guide - Higher Collins 9-1 Maths Revision Guide - Foundation
Science	Edexcel	Revise Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Combined Science Foundation Revision Guide Revise Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Combined Science Higher Revision Guide Revise Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Biology Higher Revision Guide (Triple Biology) Revise Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Chemistry Higher Revision Guide (Triple Chemistry) Revise Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Physics Higher Revision Guide (Triple Physics)
Religious Studies	AQA	Revise AQA GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies A Christianity and Islam Revision Guide or Grade 9-1 GCSE Religious Studies: AQA A Revision Guide
Art	AQA	None Available
Business Studies	AQA	GCSE Business AQA Revision Guide
Catering & Hospitality	WJEC	WJEC GCSE Hospitality & Catering: My Revision Notes
Child Development	OCR	My Revision Notes: Child Development
Computer Science	AQA	GCSE Computer Science AQA Revision Guide or GCSE Computer Science – My Revision Notes
Dance	AQA	A specialist Arts College has produced an excellent free revision guide here
DT: (Product Design)	AQA	Collins GCSE 9-1 Revision
DT: (Textiles)	AQA	My Revision Notes: AQA GCSE (9-1) Design & Technology: Textiles
Drama	AQA	Grade 9-1 GCSE Drama Revision Guide
Food	AQA	Grade 9-1 GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition - AQA Revision Guide
French	AQA	Revise AQA GCSE (9-1) French Revision Guide (Students have the workbook version)
German	AQA	Revise AQA GCSE (9-1) German Revision Guide (Students have the workbook version)
Geography	AQA	Revise AQA GCSE Geography Revision Guide (Version from CGP also recommended)
History	AQA	Oxford AQA GCSE History (9-1): America 1920-1973 Oxford AQA GCSE History (9-1): Britain: Power and the People c1170-Present Day Oxford AQA GCSE History: Conflict and Tension First World War: 1894-1918
Music	AQA	GCSE Music AQA Complete Revision & Practice - for the Grade 9-1 Course or How to Write Great Music: Understanding the Process from Blank Page to Final Product
PE	AQA	Revise AQA GCSE (9-1) Physical Education Revision Guide
Psychology	AQA	My Revision Notes: AQA GCSE (9-1) Psychology