



Executive Headteacher: Mrs L. A. Gwinnett

Ref: 3111/LMA

24<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents,

## Year 11 Update

Since our formal return to school and learning in early March, we have been delighted by the behaviour and attitude of our Year 11 students as they approach their final term with us. Our aim was always to ensure that they experienced a smooth and calm return, reacquainted themselves with their friends and the structures of school and enjoyed their learning in the classroom once again.

As ever, our work and decisions which will be outlined in this letter have been informed by the advice from the government, Ofqual and the examination boards about the award of this year's GCSE grades. To read the full publication from Ofqual please follow [this](#) link.

### GCSE Grades

We know that you may have some questions about how the GCSE grades will be awarded by the examination boards and we can now share the process that will take place at BPA. Formal examinations set by the boards will not take place. Instead, we have been asked to use a number of different pieces and sources of evidence that will altogether contribute to a GCSE subject grade that will be submitted to the exam board. Evidence may include previous end of unit tests that have been sat, coursework, non-examined assessments as well as current and future assessments that we are planning.

During the half term between Easter and the end of May, students will undertake a series of short assessments (within lessons) based on the content that has been taught. These assessments will be centrally coordinated and students and their parents will be informed of both the timetable and content of the assessments in advance. We will contact you via letter, in email form, and we will use ClassCharts as a tool to keep you fully up to date. Understandably, scheduling of assessments may be subject to some change as we need to be responsive to periods of self-isolation either by Year 11 or by members of our teaching staff. We are confident that this will provide your son/daughter with the best opportunity to achieve their potential as well as ensuring that their grades reflect the knowledge, skills and understanding that they have.

All students who qualify for access arrangements will have these concessions in place during all of these assessments. Our Head of Learning Support will work with and talk to the students involved to ensure that they are fully informed and supported and most importantly, they know how to use their concessions during the assessments.





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Across our Trust and in conjunction with schools in our Teaching School Alliance, subject leaders are working together to discuss the curriculum content that will be taught from the syllabus in the weeks to come. This is to ensure that the content is conducive to providing a high-quality assessment opportunity and secondly, that the content studied will enable your son/daughter to leave us with the best possible well-rounded education.

Standardised assessments and moderation of marking will take place within subjects and across the school to ensure that there is solid evidence to support grade submissions. This process will take place between Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April and will continue until Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May. After this, we will have the half-term break and then another week to secure any further evidence that we may need to support the grade submissions. All grades must be submitted to the exam board by the deadline of Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June. Following this, the exam boards will conduct quality assurance checks and this will be done in two ways. First, by random sampling of schools and subjects and second, by looking closely where there are significant grade fluctuations. Evidence may be requested and we will need to provide this to the exam boards. As such, the assessments and evidence that may be required by the exam boards will need to be retained for this purpose.

We are not allowed to share the grades that are submitted to the examination boards but students will receive feedback where appropriate based on their 'evidence' throughout the next ten weeks. It is our intention to provide all students and parents with an estimated grade at the end of April so that all students are aware of their projections. GCSE grades will be formally released to students on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

The process of informing and communicating with our students will be via a series of assemblies. This is to ensure that they are fully aware of the processes and the necessary procedures that we need to put in place to ensure that our grade recommendation process is fair, equitable and follows the guidelines set down by the examination boards and Ofqual. More so, that they feel supported and motivated to achieve their very best.

## Celebrations

And finally, we know that the last year has changed a lot of the 'normal' activities that students see as a rite of passage; sporting activities, residential trips, work experience and college taster days. So, we are very pleased to inform you that, providing the government roadmap remains on track, we are proposing to hold our Year 11 Valedictory Dinner/Prom on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July at the Bliss Hotel in Southport. This is an early and tentative booking and we will await further information and guidance from the government. To further celebrate their time in school we will pay for a commemorative year book for each student and the House Progress Leaders will start working with our Student Leadership Team and wider year group to develop the content for this gift. Finally, we await further guidance about the official leaving date for Year 11 and we will let you know this when further information comes from central government.



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As always, we are grateful of your continued support and if you have any queries regarding the contents of this letter please contact us at [enquiries@burscoughprioryacademy.org](mailto:enquiries@burscoughprioryacademy.org)

Yours faithfully,

*L MacLaren*

Mrs MacLaren  
**Head of School**



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