



ASTLEY COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

One of the Seaton Valley Federation of Schools

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Executive Headteacher: John Barnes

Head of School: Graham Scott

Our Ref : AI/Year11,12,13 Assessment

19th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

The school has been working hard to ensure all students in Years 11, 12 and 13, who would have had a formal examination in the Summer, are given an opportunity to sit an internal assessment after the Easter break. This is to provide additional evidence to support teaching staff in awarding fair GCSE, AS and A Level grades to all students. We have now made a number of key decisions that we would like to share with you.

When will the internal assessments take place?

All internal assessments will take place between **Monday 26th April and 7th May**. We feel this gives ample opportunity for all students to revise effectively.

How many internal assessments will students sit in each subject area?

There will be one internal assessment in each subject area.

Will the outcomes of the internal assessments determine a student's overall grade?

No. The outcomes of the internal assessments will contribute towards the overall judgement, but many other factors will also be taken into account. Please see the attached documents from Ofqual which provide a helpful summary of the different pieces of evidence that will all contribute to the overall grade judgement.

Will students be told what topics are going to be covered in the internal assessments?

Yes. Whilst we will not be telling students the nature of specific questions, we will make sure they are aware of the general topic areas so that they can focus their revision effectively. The internal assessments will not be designed to trip students up. They will be fair for all. You can find an outline of the revision topics attached to this letter.

Will students be revising in lessons for the internal assessments?

Yes, we would expect that staff will begin to focus their lessons towards revision for the internal assessments, just like we would in any other year.

How can parents and carers be confident that everything is being done to ensure that all students are being treated fairly and without bias?

We have considered this very carefully, and have put a range of measures in place to ensure that students are treated fairly, without exception. For example:

- Students will only put their candidate number on their trial internal assessment papers. Staff will therefore be marking students work without knowing which student it is.
- Where possible, materials provided by internal assessment boards at the end of March will be used to assess students, and papers will be marked using internal assessment board mark schemes.
- internal assessment papers will be moderated (teachers checking the quality of other teachers marking) to ensure that marking is accurate and consistent within and between teachers.
- For teachers who have sole responsibility for a class and are the only specialist in that subject area, we will ensure that some form of external moderation takes place i.e. working with a colleague from another school to ensure that marking is accurate and consistent.
- When the time comes to determine a student's overall grade, the school's leadership team will quality assure every subject area to ensure that grades are accurate and in line with expectations.
- internal assessment boards will review the school's quality assurance measures to ensure they are appropriate, and they will take action if they have any concerns.

When will students know the outcome of the internal assessments?

We do not have an exact date for this, but we intend it to be before May half term.

When will students know their final GCSE or A Level grades?

Final grades will be issued by examination boards. The following dates have been confirmed by Ofqual:

A Level Results Day - Tuesday 10th August

GCSE Results Day - Thursday 12th August

Results day arrangements will be confirmed in due course.

Will further assessments take place after the internal assessment period?

This decision will be down to individual subject staff, but in general, students will continue to be assessed by their subject staff after the internal assessments have taken place. This decision will be down to individual subjects, but in general, students will continue to be assessed by their subject staff after the internal assessments have taken place. Again, we will inform you and pupils of what these assessments will be and how many of them when we have further details.

I hope the above information provides you with some clarity as to how we will be assessing students in the coming weeks. This year has been another very unusual one for staff, students and parents, but we are confident that all the right measures are in place to ensure that all our students can look forward to receiving grades in the Summer that they deserve. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or queries.

Yours sincerely



Mr Adam Ironside
Assistant Head Teacher