



23rd March 2021

Dear Parents,

Year 11 Update

On 8th March we returned to school and we have been extremely impressed by the behaviour and attitudes of our Year 11 students as they approach the final term. Our aim was to ensure that our students returned to school, reacquainted themselves with their friends and the structures of school and enjoyed their learning in the classroom once more.

Once again we have worked with the advice from the government about the return to school and Ofqual and the examination boards regarding the awarding of this year's GCSE grades following the cancellation of all formal written examinations. To read the full publication from Ofqual please follow this link <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/how-qualifications-will-be-awarded-in-2021>

GCSE Grades

We know that you will have many questions about how this year's GCSE grades will be awarded by the examination boards and we can now share the process that will occur at our school. Formal examinations set by the examination boards will not take place and instead we have been asked to use a number of different pieces of evidence to award our GCSE grades. This evidence includes previous end of unit tests that have been sat, coursework, Non Examined Assessments as well as current and future assessments.

Over the half term between Easter and the end of May students will undertake a series of shorter assessments within lessons based on the content that has been taught. These assessments will be coordinated and students and parents will be informed of timetabling and content of the assessments in advance. Understandably the scheduling of assessments will be subject to some variation as we need to be responsive to any periods of self-isolation either by Year 11 or by the teaching staff and we will use ClassCharts as a tool to keep you informed. We believe that in this way we are providing your son/daughter with the best opportunity to achieve their potential as well as ensuring that grades reflect the knowledge and skills students have.

All students who qualify for access arrangements will have these concessions in place during these assessments. Our Head of Learning Support, Miss McDade, will work with these students to ensure that they are fully supported and know how to use their concessions within our internal system of assessments.

Across our trust and in conjunction with schools in our Teaching School Alliance subject leaders are ensuring that the curriculum content left to teach is the most effective to provide quality assessments and to enable your son/daughter to leave us with the best possible rounded education.

Standardised assessments and moderation of marking will take place within both subjects and across the schools to ensure that students' evidence supports the grade. This process will run until Friday 28th May. After this point we will have the half-term break and a week to secure any further evidence we may need to support our grade submissions. Grades will be submitted to the exam boards by Friday 18th June. The exam boards will then conduct their quality assurance by random sampling of schools, as well as looking more closely where significant grade fluctuations have occurred. Evidence will then need to be given to the exam boards to support the grades at their request.

We are not allowed to share grades submitted to the examination boards but students will receive feedback where appropriate based on their evidence throughout the next 10 weeks. It is our intention to provide students and parents with an estimated grade at the end of April to enable all students to be aware of their projection. GCSE grades will be released to students on Thursday 12th August 2021.

All our students will be spoken to via a series of assemblies to ensure that they are fully aware of our processes and the necessary procedures we need to put in place to ensure that our Grade recommendation process is fair, equitable and follow guidelines set down by the examination boards and Ofqual.

Celebrations

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, college taster days so we are pleased to inform you that providing the government roadmap remains on track we are proposing to hold our Year 11 Valedictory Dinner/Prom on 1st July 2021 at Charnock Farm. We are also purchasing for each student a Year Book to celebrate their time at Wellfield and our House Progress Leaders are working with our Student Leadership Team to produce this commemorative gift.

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@whs.lancs.sch.uk

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Lewis

Head of School