



THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL

'Learning Together For The Future'

Head Teacher
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Wednesday 31 March 2021

End of Term Update: Assessment and Grade Awarding

Dear parents and carers,

It has been wonderful to have our students back in school with us, they have settled very quickly and have shown excellent attitudes to their learning. Mass asymptomatic testing was managed safely and efficiently, not least because students approached the whole exercise with calm maturity. Mock examinations for Year 11 and 13 have been undertaken with a similarly impressive attitude and composure on the part of students. I know they are also very happy to be back with their friends.

As you know, this year schools will submit Centre Assessed Grades to the awarding bodies rather than students sitting formal exams. To do this, we will use a range of evidence for each student. We will continue to assess your child's ability in every subject prior to submitting grades to the awarding bodies.

Our teachers are well placed to do this due to the assessment and reporting system we use, where teachers utilise their professional experience to project the final grades which they expect students to achieve at the end of the course. We will share assessment and projected grades with you in April and again in May.

School assessments will continue throughout the Whitsun Term in the period up to the final moderation and grade entry so that there is plenty of time for students to demonstrate what they know and can do. Students will only be assessed on what they have been taught and teachers will tell students what evidence is used to arrive at the final grade. A range of evidence will be used including teachers' continuous assessment over time as well as mock examinations and exam board provided questions. No single piece of evidence will be a limiting factor in the determination of a grade and teachers will work hard to support all students to do their best.

Students, parents and carers will be kept well informed about progress. Year 11 and 13 Full Reports have been issued and include a projected and target grade provided by teachers. We will update this information in two further interim reports at the end of April and the end of May, taking account of mock examinations, continuous assessment and exam board set tasks. This will provide reassurance and information about progress and an indication of where students are heading in terms of a final grade. We will retain the evidence for awarded grades in school.

Assessment will be used to support and motivate students to achieve the best grade they are capable of, and to enable them to plan for their future destinations. The final moderated Centre Assessed Grades will be subject to moderation from the awarding bodies. For this reason, schools are not permitted to share the Teacher Assessed Grades they submit to the awarding bodies with students or parents/carers.



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Over the next half term, teachers will collate all the evidence needed to justify the final grades they will submit in June. To ensure this is as accurate as possible, we require each student to commit fully to every assessment activity and attempt them with the same focus and determination they would in a final exam. Please encourage your child to engage fully with the range of assessments teachers will set. It is important you ensure your child's attendance and engagement are at the highest levels so that they do not miss assessments.

The school will support any students who experience COVID related absence such as self-isolation. It is important that we continue to work together to enable your child to achieve the best possible outcomes.

To help families plan ahead, we will write to you in the first week of the Whitsun Term with Year 11 and 13 leaving dates. We will want to mark Leavers Day as an important rite of passage for our Year 11 and 13 students and are working on plans to do this safely.

There will be a week of Sixth Form induction for Year 11 students planning to return to our Sixth Form from **Monday 5 July to Friday 9 July**. This will be an opportunity to experience Sixth Form routines, get to know new forms and be introduced to A Level subjects.

Examination Results Days will be held in school on **Tuesday 10 August for A Level** and **Thursday 12 August for GCSE**.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in the Ecclesbourne community a happy and healthy Easter Holiday and we hope you are able to enjoy some spring sunshine and the gradual easing of national restrictions over the coming weeks. Thank you for your help and support which makes it possible for us, working together, to do our very best for all our students.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us by telephone or email. As always, please do get in touch with us here at school if you need any further information or support.

Best wishes and stay safe,

James McNamara

Head Teacher

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