

Year 11 GCSE grades and finish date

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you for your immense support of our students and staff as we navigate the awarding of GCSE grades by teaching staff once again this year. The process is similar in essence to last year but different in the detail and JCQ have produced [a summary document](#) for parents and students to explain it.

Next week we commence a 3-week period of formal assessments as part of our evidence collection to award the GCSEs. I would ask parents to complete a [form](#) regarding 'special consideration' for personal circumstances which have a direct impact upon this formal assessment window. Please note that these are not applied as per the usual exam season as we do not have public exams. However, we will conduct our assessments in the exam conditions to which our students are accustomed. Please remind students:

- They should know their seat number for each assessment.
- Arrive at the Assembly Rooms to line up for 8.45 am.
- The formal assessments will be conducted in line with JCQ guidance, including the absence of mobile phones from the assessment room.

The full JCQ regulations can be viewed by following this [link](#).

Staff are working hard to ensure that our Year 11 receive a holistic, objective grade based on the evidence of students' performances for the subject content they have been taught. Staff will also be utilising the grade descriptors and exemplar grading material provided by JCQ as part of this process.

Students will receive an outline of the evidence used by subject staff after the formal assessments have been completed later in the term.

After half term we have prepared a set of suggested work/recommended reading for students to complete at home if they wish. This is differentiated for different post 16 progression routes. This time would also be well spent by signing up to the summer NCS programme. The NCS offer a fantastic opportunity for young people. You can find out more by clicking on this [link](#). We will also support students with virtual work experience. Anyone interested should contact Mr Askham or Mrs Horne for more information.

Year 11 students will not be attending school from Monday 7th June. I will write to parents nearer the time to confirm end of year celebrations with Year 11 for Friday 28th May and the Year 11 Prom on Saturday 3rd July.

This has been a challenging couple of academic years for our young people. I have been humbled by their humour, candour and resilience. We have a busy and significant final few weeks of this term to secure the outcomes which reflect their performance. It is imperative we work together to support and challenge them to complete their revision and optimise their learning to be ready for the next stage of their education.

Yours sincerely

Julie McBrearty
Principal