

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Year 11 & 13 assessments

I hope you a great half term and your son/daughter found time to relax, spent time away from their screens and managed to recharge their batteries.

I am sure you will already be aware of the government announcement yesterday, that students will return to college from Monday 8th March. This is great news and we are looking forward to welcoming them back.

In response to this announcement, we have reviewed our Year 11 & 13 assessment plans for this half term. The original decision for students to complete assessments at home during week commencing 1st & 15th March was taken when we thought secondary school students may not return until after Easter. Knowing that students will now return from Monday 8th March, we are confident we have sufficient time to complete all necessary assessments without students having to complete any at home.

Therefore, the assessment/exam timetable for next week (w/c 1st March) WILL NOT go ahead as planned. The main reasons for the decision include:

- All assessments can now be completed in classrooms, under controlled exam conditions;
- Reducing possible barriers and disadvantage for some students, for example slow internet, poor IT equipment, lack of a quiet space, the need for specific access arrangements etc
- Teachers can use the 'gained' time next week to help students continue to develop the necessary knowledge and skills for future assessments;
- Students will have ten weeks in college before Spring bank to complete each course and all necessary assessments required to generate accurate teacher assessed grades. Although we are still awaiting the outcome of the Ofqual consultation, we are expecting exam boards to provide a number of externally set assessments that can be used during this time.

I appreciate that your son/daughter will have been working hard to prepare for their assessments next week, however I can assure you this time will not be wasted, as it will help them when completing other key assessments.

I will write to all parents again before the end of the week regarding our re-opening and Covid testing plans, however I wanted to share this information regarding assessments with you as soon as possible. Teachers will start to share the message with students tomorrow, however I would appreciate it if you could let them know too.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and support.



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Regards



Dave Wadsworth
Principal

