



ST/KJP
30th April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your patience and understanding whilst we have adapted to the changes that have been asked of us for grading student exam results this year. We are confident that it is a transparent and rigorous process, and we are sure that students will remain motivated and positive over the coming weeks as they finish their compulsory secondary education.

Grading

Information is being shared regularly with students as they work with teachers to compile their folders of evidence that will be used to determine the grades that are submitted to exam boards. Students will have a basket of evidence for each subject they study which will contain:

- Assessment over time
 - a wide range of evidence from the duration of the course will inform this piece of evidence. It will include classwork (written and verbal) and homework along with tasks that have been completed in assessment weeks in KS4.
- Mock exam results
- End of course short assessments
 - students have been completing these since they returned to face-to-face teaching in March and will continue to do so until the end of this half term. Class teachers will ensure that students are aware of which pieces of work will count as evidence, inform them of the timing of the assessments and fully prepare them in the lessons before they take place.
- Two additional pieces of evidence that are subject specific and ensure full coverage of the specification, e.g. in practical subjects these may be practical assessments

This range of evidence will ensure that students can demonstrate the breadth of their learning covering the course specifications that have been taught.

For vocational qualifications, grades will be based on units completed throughout the course, these include internal units that have been assessed through coursework and external units where examinations have already been taken.

School Leavers' Update

The leaving date for Year 11 students will be Friday, 28th May. After this date, students will not be required in school for lessons. It is possible that we may need to contact students or parents during the moderation process so we will need students to be available after half-term until the final submission deadline for grading on Friday, 18th June. Students may also be invited into school to attend a careers meeting to support them in securing their post Shelfield destinations.

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For those students who will be returning to the academy to study in Sixth Form, there will be an extended induction programme which will include preparatory lessons in the subjects they are going to study. We are conscious that students have had over a year of disrupted education and want to ensure that they are ready for their level 3 qualifications. The dates for this are 21st June to 2nd July and further details will be sent individually to the students involved.

Within your child's tutor group Microsoft Teams area, there will be some additional educational resources to support your child's progression post Shelfield, as well as some information on careers advice and guidance and support for wellbeing.

National Citizen Service (NCS)

NCS are promoting a number of opportunities for Year 11 students during the summer holidays with start dates ranging from mid-July to mid-August. This is a great way for students to develop their life skills and will help them stand out when applying for university, apprenticeships or a job. Over 500,000 people have already completed the NCS programme which has helped them develop the skills employers are looking for and provided them with a chance to meet new people and build confidence.

All programme options and dates are available on their website www.wearencs.com NCS costs £1,500 per place but with Government funding this will only cost you £50 which covers everything from food, activities and accommodation while students are away. Visit www.wearencs.com to sign up now or alternatively call them on 0800 197 8010. We truly value NCS as a transformative programme and hope you will encourage your child to take part.

We would also like to update you on a few things that will be occurring over the next few weeks:

- Staff have been discussing leavers hoodies with students and further details will follow from Mr Mellor and Miss Melbourne
- Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, and following current advice, the Prom will not go ahead. Although our Prom date is after the date when restrictions are due to be lifted, venues are not able to tell us what they will be able to accommodate in terms of catering and numbers at this stage. It is a disappointment to have to cancel the Prom but we can understand the venue's apprehension. We also want to avoid any unnecessary expense linked to last minute cancellation.
- As a reminder, results day for Year 11 GCSEs will be on Thursday 12th August. Information about the arrangements for this date will be issued closer to the time.

Thank you again to all parents/carers and students for your support over this turbulent time and we hope that the remaining few weeks of Year 11 are positive for all involved.

Yours sincerely

Mr Stuart Turnbull
Principal