



ST/KJP
30th April 2021

Dear Parents/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 KS5.
- 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 sat.

School Leavers' Update

The leaving date for Year 13 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 Sheffield destinations.

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

- The academy will be speaking with students about the opportunity to purchase leavers hoodies, further information will follow from Mrs Davies.
- Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, and following current advice, a whole year group celebration will not be possible. Although the celebration 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.

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It is a disappointment 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 13 will be on Tuesday 10th August. Information about the arrangements for this date will be issued closer to the time.

Work Experience Opportunity

One of the many negative impacts of the pandemic has meant that students have not been able to access and gain work experience which they can also add to their CV. Therefore, we will be offering Year 13 students the opportunity to complete work experience at the academy acting as catch-up coaches in lessons with students in Years 7-10. We will either assign students to the members of staff who teach subjects they have studied in Sixth Form (or are going to study at higher education), or assign them to specific classes in year groups. The dates for this will be from 7th June to 2nd July. If your child is interested in doing this, then we would ask them to speak to their form tutor who will direct them to the online application form.

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 13 are positive for all involved and wish students every success in their future careers.

Yours sincerely

Mr Stuart Turnbull
Principal