



20 April 2021

Dear Year 11 Parents and Carers,

### Update to timeline for determining GCSE Grades

Following our earlier communications with parents, carers and with students last term, we are now able to share with you an updated timeline for the completion of assessments which will support the determination of GCSE grades in Summer 2021.

As you are aware, students are only to be assessed on what they have been taught. In many subjects there is significant existing evidence of students' performance level in certain areas of the relevant subject specification. As outlined at Parents' Evening, all students have received guidance, which is attached for your reference, indicating the areas of the specification that students should prioritise for their revision, and in preparation for any additional assessments.

### NEA Window: 21 to 30 April 2021

Moving forward, students should now be preparing to complete their NEAs (Non-Examined Assessments) in Food Preparation and Nutrition, Media, DT Textiles, Drama, PE and Art. Students have been allocated time slots for this within the window, 21 April to 30 April, an overview of which is provided below.

With the exception of Art, students only need to attend at their allocated time slot and class teachers have already informed their students of this, as appropriate.

EASTER		
19th April		
20th April		
21st April	Food Prep	Media
22nd April	Food Prep	Textiles
23rd April	Food Prep	Media
26th April	Drama	
27th April	Drama	PE
28th April	Art	PE
29th April	Art	
30th April		

NEAs will be a significant piece of evidence for the school to consider when determining students' grades in these subjects and, therefore, students should ensure that they prepare for these assessments as thoroughly as possible.

**Head of School: Mr D Lach BA (Hons) NPQH**    **Executive Headteacher: Ms R Allen MA NPQH**

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## Additional Assessments : 4 May to 27 May

In almost all subjects, with the exception of Art, students will then sit additional assessments to help generate additional evidence of the level at which they are now performing, which will further contribute to the process of determining their GCSE grades.

These additional assessments will be typically 40 to 50 minutes in length and will have been produced using past paper questions. Some subjects will use the additional assessment materials provided by the exam boards, whereas other subjects are creating their own bespoke additional assessment, again using past paper questions.

Students will sit these assessments in lessons, and they will feel like typical class-based assessments, or class tests – they are not exams. Students will be granted access arrangements as appropriate to class-based assessments and, wherever possible, students will sit assessments for each subject on the same day as other students in the cohort, but not necessarily at the same time.

**It is important to remind students that these additional assessments will not be the only source of evidence used to determine their final grade. The guidance remains clear that this final grade should be a holistic judgement of the overall level of performance they have reached.**

For example, in the guidance provided to schools by JCQ, 'Student 3' as shown below, will have their grade determined by their November mock exam, a substantive homework task, their summative class performance marks, and NEA and their additional assessments.

For Student 3 the evidence is as follows:

Evidence	Grade/Mark	Comments
Mock exam (Nov 20)	4	
Substantial written homework task (Feb 20)	21/40	
Classroom performance marks (Sept – Dec 20 + March 21)	6	Grade average across tasks
Partially completed NEA (April 21)	6	
Additional assessment – awarding organisation materials (May 21)	37/60	

This is an example. Please be aware that the assessment record of evidence used to grade students in each subject will be shared with students, however, the breakdown of grades/marks will not.

In this example, the exam board guidance published by JCQ indicates that Student 3 should be awarded a Grade 6, as this is the best indicator of their level of performance.

Guidance for students, parents and carers published by JCQ can be accessed via the link below and again outlines the holistic nature of the process as well as confirming how will account for individual circumstances and handle appeals.

[JCQ-Guidance-for-Students-and-Parents-on-Summer-2021](#)

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These additional assessments will take place between 4 May and 27 May, which means that students will effectively finish Year 11 just before the May half term. During the window for additional assessments, students will not be required to wear school uniform, however, they must still wear their Year 11 lanyard at all times, and ensure it is clearly visible.

You will find a provisional timetable for these additional assessments attached to the email accompanying this letter.

Therefore, Thursday 27 May will be the last formal day in Year 11 for the majority of our students in this cohort, but, as previously communicated, we do ask that all Year 11 students make themselves available until at least Friday 11 June in case we need to contact them with regard to the evidence we have in place for them, as exam boards can request to see this evidence for the purpose of external moderation.

If national restrictions and school guidance allow (as currently seems likely, given the government's Road Map) we are planning to invite Year 11 back into school on Thursday 1 July to attend a Celebration Morning, which will then be followed by a Prom that evening to mark their time at Rosebery to date. More details on these events will follow in due course.

GCSE results will be published on Thursday 12 August and we anticipate that students will be able to attend school to collect their results from 9am on that morning.

We know that this has been an incredibly challenging year for the country, the Rosebery community and in particular for our Year 11 students, and we wish to reiterate how incredibly proud we are of the resilience, ambition and character that the Class of 2021 have demonstrated throughout the pandemic.

Please be assured that we remain committed to ensuring that all students are able to achieve the grades that their level of performance and effort throughout their GCSE courses has warranted and to ensure that they are not disadvantaged by the impact of the pandemic on their education.

Please do get in touch if you have further questions or concerns about any of the information outlined in this letter.

Yours sincerely



David Lach  
Head of School



Ros Allen  
Executive Headteacher

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