

Dear Year 11 /Year 13 Parent /Carer

Grade Validation Assessments (GVAs)

Since our return to school after the Easter break students in Year 11 and Year 13 have been working conscientiously to prepare for their Grade Validation Assessments (GVAs). These final assessments are designed to complete their evidence folders and enable teachers to assess students across the Assessment Objectives in line with the government instruction that was published just before the Easter holidays. We have briefed students via email and have published the schedules on the school website. These assessments are compulsory in all subjects and we have built in a contingency week in the event of illness or self-isolation, meaning that students must be available up to and including 28 May.

Attendance expectations

Year 11

Year 11 students are required to attend formal lessons in school until Friday 7 May. On Monday 10 May the GVA period will begin. Students will be required to be in school for the full day if they have GVAs in both Session 1 and in the afternoon Session 3. Students may otherwise arrive in school at least 15 minutes prior to the start of their first GVA of the day. Once students have finished all their assessments for the day, they may leave the school site to go home.

Students are welcome to attend throughout the whole school day during the assessment period. Teachers will be in their dedicated teaching rooms and in between GVAs students on site should go to the timetabled lesson(s) and use this time to study/prepare for their GVA.

Under no circumstances should students be congregating around the town; they should only leave school to return home after signing out in reception. Parents should confirm that students will be collected or have permission to walk home/dropped off at school.

Students will not need to attend school once they have completed all their GVAs. However, students must be available during the week beginning 24 May to complete any GVAs they may have missed at the originally scheduled time.

Year 13

Year 13 students are required to attend formal lessons in school until Friday 7 May. On Monday 10 May the GVA period will begin.

Students should ensure they arrive at the appropriate location at least 15 minutes prior to the start of their GVAs.

Whilst students are not expected to be on site when they do not have a GVA, they are welcome to attend throughout the whole school day during the assessment period. Their normal teaching rooms and the work rooms will be available throughout the GVA period. Students will not need to attend school once they have completed all their GVAs. However, students must be available during the week beginning 24 May to complete any GVAs they may have missed at the originally scheduled time.

We must make it clear that students should not be going into town to visit the pubs in groups. Whatever the relaxing of national Covid safety measures, the school will not condone activity of this kind.

Both Year 11 and Year 13

To mark the formal end of school for Year 11 and Year 13 students after their GVAs have finished, we are arranging some celebration events in June. Unfortunately, no formal Prom will take place this year for Year 11, so we hope that this event goes some way to celebrating the transition from Year 11 to Sixth Form this year. For the Year 13 students it is hoped that their Prom will go ahead, and students are continuing with their plans.

There will also be opportunities for students to return all library books, textbooks and for Year 13, their lanyards. Textbooks and library books are very costly to replace, so it is essential that we have all school resources returned.

Please note that while we expect that the GVAs will be completed well before 28 May, we may have to schedule catch-up assessments on this day for any student who has missed them earlier due to illness or having to self-isolate.

The return of school resources

Textbooks should be returned to the school. If you are unsure which books have been on loan, please ask a member of the department who will be happy to provide you with your loan details.

Books that are not returned by the end of the academic year will be marked as *missing not returned* and in the case of books with deposits attached, the deposit will be reimbursed to the departmental budget the book was originally purchased from.

If you have lost or mislaid a textbook you may wish to buy a replacement copy. However, you must ensure that the replacement is the same edition and in good condition.

Results and other information

Over the next few weeks, we will be publishing information on our website including this year's grading policy, details of the evidence used in each subject to arrive at final grades, and details of the appeals process.

Results will be sent to all students via email (A level Tuesday 10 August 2021 and GCSE Thursday 12 August 2021) in a practice we introduced last year, and which proved popular with students and parents. It means there will be no face to face collection of results (hopefully some of you will be on holiday!) but please be assured that staff will be in school and there will be full advice and support available on results days via telephone calls or video calls. More details will follow. What is important is that your child must ensure they log on regularly to their school email account to check access to emails and to ensure their password doesn't expire, as results will be sent to this email address only.

Yours faithfully

N M Law
Headteacher