

## 19th March 2021 - Summer Assessment update. Years 11 and 13

Dear all,

As promised, here is the third weekly update from me about the summer assessment process leading to the awarding of grades by the exam boards in August. In addition to this overview letter, please take note of the links at the bottom of the page which will go into more detail.

Since I wrote to you last week, we have been working on our assessment schedule and the logistics involved in making the assessment phase a valuable and meaningful experience for our children. The majority of assessments will take place between the 26th April and the 14th May but we may need to run a small number of assessments towards the very end of the first week back after Easter. We are working hard to provide a quality assessment schedule which is measured and appropriate so please bear with us as we plan this. The exact times and sequence of the assessments will come to you next week giving around five weeks for students and families to absorb the information and to plan accordingly.

We've also been looking at the content and style of the assessments and creating subject specific information sheets that will tell you exactly what and what not to revise so that you have the opportunity to really focus revision time on the content of the assessments. Some subjects are planning their assessments a little differently. The biggest contributor to this variation is the coursework ('Non Examined Assessment') element of some subjects. This means that some subjects will have slightly shorter assessments compared to others but we will let you know the precise detail of this when our subject sheets are ready. This information will be released next week so again, you will have plenty of time to absorb this prior to the assessments.

This week you will receive some current assessment information relating to performance in each subject and I have decided it would be useful to also provide you with the last few assessment scores so you can talk about patterns and trends up to this point in time. It's really important to be clear that the information we will send you this Friday is *current assessment information* in each subject. I'd like to emphasise that it is **not** target grade information nor a prediction of the final grades which a child may be awarded by the exam boards. Behind the scenes we are setting up our data collection process so that we can provide information to the exam boards by the deadline of the 18th June. Remember that the school doesn't award grades. The exam boards award final grades using datasets provided by schools.

I made the decision this week to hold an additional parent consultation evening for years 13 and 11. I realise that this is a late announcement but I feel it's important for us to talk to families before the Easter break. These events will take place online on the 25th March for year 13 and the 30th March for year 11. A letter will come out very soon for you to book your appointment slots online. Remember that you won't be able to see every teacher in every subject so please prioritise your appointments. The purpose of these additional consultation evenings is to establish what students need to do to secure success in the assessments and what they need to focus on in terms of revision within specific subject areas. Please be aware that teachers will not have any data indicating what any child's final grade might be. This is because the outcomes of the assessments are part of the dataset we will submit and obviously the assessments have not been sat yet. I have asked teachers to focus conversations on what and how to revise so that the children know what to do leading up to the assessment phase. If you do have broader questions about the assessment process, please email them to [exams2021@hccs.info](mailto:exams2021@hccs.info) rather than discuss them at the parent consultation evening.

This is an important time for our children and I know that you will continue to support them all as we work towards the summer assessments. With this in mind our teachers are offering revision masterclasses in the first week of the Easter holiday between the 6th to the 9th April. These will be focused, intense revision sessions which students can opt into. Bear in mind that students will not be able to access a session in every subject they study and in fact this is not the intention of this additional provision. Students should target their choices based on subjects where they feel they need the additional input the most. Obviously, these sessions are tailored towards succeeding in the assessments coming up in April and May and will not simply repeat work done in lockdown. You will be able to find out about masterclasses in the third video and by reading through the presentation. Places must be booked in advance and this information will be coming out to you next week.

Warm regards  
Nigel

Nigel Bielby  
Executive Head Teacher

### **Summary of information coming out during w/c 22/3**

- Draft assessment schedule
- Subject information sheets
- Parent consultation evening booking forms
- Masterclass booking form
- Presentations from Director of Sixth Form and Year 11 Learning Intervention Manager

### **LINKS**

Presentation

[Assessment Update March 19th 2021](#)

Video 1 Nigel Bielby - Assessment update

[Video 1 - Assessment update](#)

Video 2 Jason Jones - Delivering our assessment model

[Video 2 - Delivering our assessment model](#)

Video 3 Matt Lowe - Supporting our children

[Video 3 - Supporting Our Children](#)

Dear students and families,

This is our latest update, keeping you informed of what is happening and how we can support you over the next few weeks.

Well done to all of the students for their enthusiasm and engagement in learning and in preparing themselves for what will be a very special time in their lives. Our young people are almost ready for taking the next steps in their learning journey and we will support them all the way as they embrace a bright and successful future. Thanks also to all of the families out there for staying with us, trusting us and for the invaluable role you have played especially over this extraordinary year.

Since our last update:

- There have been 2 really successful parent and student consultation evenings. We felt it was important that families had an opportunity to have a face to face discussion with subject teachers so that we could discuss what students need to do next and talk about what we have put in place to support them.
- Bookings have been made for our Easter masterclass provision from the 6th to the 9th April. This has proved extremely popular with a high uptake. Sessions will be intended to support students in the final prep for their assessments.
- We have been refining the Summer Assessment timetable and an overview is now on the school website. The detail of this is currently being put into Bromcom, so that students will get a personalised timetable on the Student Portal, and on the MyChildAtSchool app. This will be in place before the examinations but is not available just yet.
- Schools have had extra guidance from OFQUAL the exams regulator, JCQ who represent the main awarding bodies, and the exam boards themselves. This has given us some more clarity on the processes we need to implement, and we are in detailed planning for this. We will let you know more when we are able

What students can do over the Easter break.

- Firstly, it is important that students get some rest. The best advice for most students is to put some time aside to think about how to structure their revision and look carefully at the subject sheets on the school website.
- Planning to revise weaker topics first is one successful strategy that works and helps avoid spending too long revising areas that students are already good at. It is all about little and often, and subject teachers have already been talking about strategies and techniques.
- Doing past questions are an excellent way to get into practice and into good habits for assessments.

Finally, if you would like any further information or help, you can have a look at the FAQ's on the school website, which will answer most of your questions. Our dedicated email address is [exams2021@hccs.info](mailto:exams2021@hccs.info)

Jason Jones, (Assistant Headteacher)

30th April

### **Formal Assessments**

We are very proud of how our students have approached the formal assessments they are currently sitting. Students have grasped the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding at the end of the course, and have displayed a willingness to prove themselves, knowing that other evidence will be taken into account alongside what they are currently doing. We will hold a “mopping up” session for any students who missed a formal assessment through illness or absence in mid May (dates to follow). Many thanks to you as parents and carers for the support you are giving your children at this time.

### **Extra evidence used to arrive at a final grade**

As you will recall, for most subjects, the formal assessments will count for 60% of the final grade alongside any Non-Examined Assessments (coursework). The other 40% will be drawn from 5 key pieces of evidence. Curriculum Leaders have considered which pieces of evidence they will use in their subjects, taking into account a range of factors including only assessing content that has been covered, and being able to authenticate that work has been produced by the student concerned, as well as following exam board guidance. We are going to publish to you a detailed breakdown of what the evidence bank is, subject by subject, ahead of submission dates in June, so that you are fully informed. As the exam boards are the Awarding Organisations, please note we are unable to disclose any grades to students before results day, as this would constitute exam malpractice.

### **Results Days and Appeals**

As a reminder, the nationally agreed results days are:

⇒ KS5 (year 13) on **10th August**.

⇒ KS4 (year 11) on **12th August**.

Please save the date. We will be inviting students into school to collect their results, where guidance will be on hand to help them in their next steps. More information will follow nearer the time, including what happens if you are considering making an appeal.

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the exams team at:

[exams2021@hccs.info](mailto:exams2021@hccs.info)

You will also find answers to the Frequently Asked Questions on the school website. Just look for the tab “Summer Assessments 2021” on the main page.

Jason Jones (Assistant Headteacher)