



Striving for Excellence

Cirencester Kingshill School

Head: Christine S. Oates

1st February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you are all managing to keep safe and well.

Please find below an update relating to the Y11 summer assessments, reports and parents' evenings.

Year 11 Examination Update

We know that this is a difficult time for everyone and in particular for our Y11 pupils who face ongoing uncertainty around how their qualifications will be awarded this summer. Last Friday, the 29th January 2021, I led a Teams assembly for the year group. The assembly sought to clarify what we do know about the assessment process, and also emphasised that although there is still a lot that we don't know yet, the key message is that Year 11 need to continue to work hard in the weeks ahead. This is because the submission of their grades later in the summer term, will be based on their performance in all of the work that they have completed up to that point.

A summary of the key messages from the assembly are as follows;

A national consultation on the assessment process ended on Friday 29th January 2021. This gave teachers, pupils, parents and carers, the opportunity to express their views on the options that were presented. Clearly, it will take some time to assimilate the responses from this consultation, and for the awarding examination bodies to incorporate the outcomes into the assessment models that are formulated.

It is important that all Year 11 pupils understand that regardless of all of the uncertainty, their current performance will be the key indicator, not their target or predicted grades. A pupil's current performance is likely to be evidenced by any, or all, of the following:

- Formal assessments
- Classwork, including that which was carried out during the period of home learning
- Examination tasks released by the boards later in the spring/summer term

Reassuringly, we have been advised that pupils will only be assessed on the content that has been taught, so although they have missed significant learning time in school, they will not be expected to have learnt things that won't have been covered by their teachers.

Our understanding is that pupils' grades are likely to be submitted in May/June, and we are currently planning towards an assessment fortnight in May to help inform the grades that are submitted. It has been suggested that the usual scheduling of Results Day in August, will be moved to July. This would be a significant change, but gives pupils longer to clarify their post-16 plans: we will of course keep you updated on all of this as we hear more.

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Cirencester Kingshill School, registered in England and Wales under number 7686390





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As a school, we are working hard to ensure that all of our Year 11 pupils are as prepared as possible. They are still being taught in line with their usual school timetable via MS Teams, and resources are being sent out through Show My Homework or email. We are maintaining an expectation that work is routinely submitted for assessment and feedback when requested by teachers. We are also working hard to ensure that we have robust systems for recording and reporting accurate grades for our pupils and you should be reassured that, in line with whatever DfE guidance emerges, we will be implementing moderation procedures so that the grades that are submitted are fair, and reflective of pupils' performance.

We would ask that you support your child in making sure that they are engaging in their Teams lessons, and keeping to a routine in line with their timetable, and we would encourage that they ask for help when it is needed. We would also urge that beyond their timetabled Teams lessons, pupils are developing and following a revision programme, so that they keep refreshing their knowledge of all of their learning.

Lastly, we would ask that they, and you as parents and carers, trust that in spite of all this uncertainty, the appropriate systems will ensure that our pupils will receive grades that are fair, and that all of us at Kingshill School will work professionally to support them in this.

Reports and Parents' Evening – Dates for your Diaries

As you will know, we recently postponed the planned Year 11 Reports and Parents' Evenings, due to a number of factors affected by the current National Lockdown.

Having looked at the information that we have relating to the planned formal assessments for Year 11 pupils, and also our own school calendar, we have now rescheduled both of these items.

- Year 11 reports will be sent home to parents and carers on Thursday 18th March 2021. These will provide an accurate and updated summary of pupils' performance and engagement during this period of lockdown.
- Parents' Evenings will be held on Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th March 2021. Meetings will be held online, and more information on how to book and attend will be sent home to Year 11 parents and carers shortly.

If you have any questions or concerns relating to your child and school, please contact their tutor, Mr Edwards, Head of Year or myself. Thank you once again for your support.

Please take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Morland
Senior Assistant Head KS4

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