



Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well.

As schools begin to reopen following on from the latest lockdown, our focus with our students will be on welcoming them back, ensuring their safety and wellbeing and establishing good school based learning routines. My focus also now turns to ensuring an assessment program for our students to allow us to identify any gaps in their learning so far. With this in mind, I am writing to you with an update on the assessment proposals for the current Year 10 cohort.

Like all students, Year 10 have had their learning taken online for relatively long periods of time. Now we have finally reached a point where the school is fully reopen we can begin to take stock of where we are and the most effective ways to move forward.

I am very aware that this Year 10 cohort in particular have not only had their learning disrupted, but also many aspects of their assessment program missed. By now, we should have assessed all students a number of times and reported progress grades to them (and you!). As well as being able to report grades, assessments allow teachers to identify areas of strength and areas that need revisiting or improving. With this in mind, I am planning on asking every department to assess each Year 10 student in their subject area.

I am keen for the students to complete their return to school next week and have some time in classrooms with teachers before being assessed. Reestablishing learning routines and settling back in to school life will be the first priority. The assessments will take place the week beginning Monday 29th March (the very final week of the term). Due to the nature of the timetable and lessons, some of the assessments may need to take place at the end of the previous week. Individual subjects/teachers will let their classes know the exact date of their assessment. All assessments will take place in lessons. You will receive the results of the assessments via our monitoring system shortly after we return from the Easter break.

We have a Year 10 parents evening (online event) now scheduled for the 24th March. This will be a good opportunity to discuss any subject specific questions you may have. More information about this event will be sent out closer to the time. In the meantime, if you have any questions around the assessment week, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school. Any questions about returning to school should be sent to your child's form tutor.

We look forward to welcoming your child back into school next week and wish them all the very best of luck with the assessment week later on in the term.

Yours sincerely,

P Whitehouse (Assistant Headteacher)



FAQ's

Q) How much preparation should my child undertake for the assessments?

- A) *They should follow the advice/guidance/instructions from their teachers. Use the resources and tasks they have set. They should do as much preparation as the teachers advise them to do. If you feel that your child is becoming overwhelmed or the combined preparation required results in unreasonable demands please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor.

Q) What if my child does badly?

- A) Assessments aren't about doing 'badly'. They tell your child, you and the school the strengths and areas for development. They inform us as to next steps advice.

Q) What happens with the results?

- A) Schools use the information to help us plan better lessons. The outcome of the assessments will also be reported home in the monitoring cycle after Easter.

Q) My child can't access SMHW or TEAMS, what should they do?

- a)Ask their tutor for help!! As a matter of urgency.

Q) Where do my child's targets come from?

- a)The targets are set against national benchmarks and based on progress from KS2 SATS results. They provide a useful benchmark as to where a student should be aiming for against the backdrop of national performance. We understand that every child is an individual and the nature of national benchmarking means that targets are a useful indicator but not 'everything'.