

Compassion
Achievement
Respect
Endeavour

The cornerstones of our learning community

7th May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Year 11 and Year 13 Assessments

Next week sees the start of our assessment period for Year 11 and Year 13 students. Over the following two weeks they will be sitting final assessments in their subjects. Outcomes from these final assessments will, along with previous assessment outcomes, help set the grades they will receive in the summer. This assessment period provides an opportunity for students to show us what progress they have made in the last few weeks, helping complete the picture we have on them.

You may be aware that Ofqual have advised schools that exam boards will be undertaking sampling of school assessments. Schools will have to submit samples of marked work from Year 11 and Year 13 students, as part of the external quality assurance procedures put in place this year. This should ensure that the assessment and grading of students' work is accurate and meets expected standards.

Year 11 Graduation

We are pleased to say that we plan to hold Year 11 Graduation this year. To 'graduate' students need to meet certain thresholds with regards to behaviour, attitude, effort, attendance and punctuality. In short, elements that reflect positive engagement with school. Students must also submit a Record of Achievement; these records contain evidence of wider participation in school life. We are rightly very proud of the way that so many students participate in activities and ventures within the school and beyond. We encourage such an approach, recognising that the development of a rounded character grows out of rich and diverse experiences. One of the very important things that our students have missed out on in the last year is exactly this, opportunities to collaborate and work with others have been greatly reduced. Despite restrictions many students are still able to show how well they have contributed to our community over a period of time. We will celebrate 'graduation' in school, sadly without parents being able to attend. We will however ensure we have photographs to share and that students receive positive messages about how much we value the character they constantly demonstrate to us.









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Year Group Zones

In the coming weeks, we intend to move away from the year group zones that we currently have in place across both sites. As restrictions are gradually relaxed we must consider how and when to ensure life in school returns to normal. After half term, zones at the Imberhorne Lane site will be removed (for teaching groups). This means that teachers will return to their specialist rooms and students will move around the site more freely than they currently do. At Windmill Lane, zones will remain in place until the week beginning Monday 5th July. At this time Year 9 students transfer to the Imberhorne Lane site, zones for Year 7 and Year 8 students will then be removed. We intend to retain the separation of Year groups at break and lunch, we also intend to retain separate food outlets and outdoor recreation spaces. Staff welcome the opportunity to return to their specialist rooms, having to move from classroom to classroom (as we currently do), often in entirely different parts of the school has been exhausting. When departments return to their own spaces or rooms a semblance of the life they are used to will return.

Consultation Evening, Early Finish and Inset Day

On Thursday 20th May we are holding a Year 7 Consultation Evening (as a virtual event). On this date school finishes at 2.30pm, this allows our IT team time to set up the required equipment for the consultation evening. The following Friday, 28th May, is an Inset day. Students are not expected in school on this date.

Year 9 Assessment/Y10 Reports

After half term, from Monday 7th June, our Year 9 Assessment Fortnight commences. The outcomes from these assessments will help us decide on how to group students in Key Stage 4, when they start their GCSE programmes of study. In addition to this we will also commence writing Year 10 reports.

The school continues to be a busy, vibrant community. We look forward to putting the restrictions we have experienced behind us and returning to doing all the things we enjoy so much and make such a difference to our students.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Brown Headteacher