



Our Ref: LTM/kmd/Y11support

20 April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Updates regarding Support for Year 11 Students

I hope that you and your family managed a restful Easter period and were able to safely make the most of any opportunities possible as a result of the most recent government updates, while enjoying the good weather.

We were delighted to welcome students back into school yesterday and were pleased by the positivity shown from Year 11 at the start of what is a significant half term for them. As you are aware, over the coming weeks staff in school will be working with all students to ensure that as much course content is covered and that alongside the evidence base of work already completed throughout their courses, students have further opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and application through a number of in-class assessments.

From previous communication you will be aware that formal examinations usually completed in the exam hall will not take place. Instead students will undertake a number of in-class assessments which have been chunked down to focus on key areas of study, which students will be supported to prepare effectively for.

Prior to the Easter period all students were provided with a booklet outlining what subject knowledge would be considered, this will be further reinforced in lessons as we move forward. A reminder that any in-class assessments will be communicated via Satchel One and appear as 'Class Tests'; these will appear at least one week before any assessment will take place. We would encourage parents to actively speak with their child to ensure that they are organised to prepare for these fully. The outcomes of these assessments will be used as part of a wider evidence base to allow students to be allocated 'Teacher Assessed Grades' (TAGs), which will be submitted to examination boards following the May half term break. Staff will be taking a holistic view of work completed over the course, with all students fully supported to demonstrate work at the level they are able to achieve.

On Thursday this week we have provided parents with the opportunity to meet (virtually) with teachers if they require further information; we were pleased with feedback given from many parents that at this stage they are clear as to what processes are in place and what plans are moving forward, following previously published information. For those parents choosing to attend the Virtual Evening, a reminder that the examination boards have specifically stated that no discussion can take place with students or parents regarding final TAGs or the levels that students are currently working at. This makes the nature of this evening very different to how a parents evening would normally feel as this would normally be a key focus.

Staff have been asked to ensure that questions regarding future work are responded to with consideration towards what students can undertake to maximise their outcomes at this stage, staff may also focus on individual targets which will help support including their Attitude to Learning. Staff have been given clear instruction of what (as stated by the examination boards) they are not able to discuss and will communicate this to parents if they feel that any questions asked would go against these requirements.

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The most important message however, is that during the coming weeks **everything counts**. Students need to listen to what is asked of them, work hard to complete work by any given deadlines and ensure that they are completing any additional work from home to support their lessons in school.

We have every confidence that the support students will receive will help secure TAGs which reflect their working at levels, taking all of the previous challenges into account.

Can I take this opportunity to wish your child the very best as they progress through this final part of their Oldbury Wells journey; I look forward to working with them and the staff team in school to secure the next steps in their educational journey.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Tristham', written in a cursive style.

Lee Tristham
Headteacher