

## Clitheroe Royal Grammar School

Founded in 1554

Headteacher: Mr J M Keulemans BSc (Hons) NPQH York Street Clitheroe BB7 2DJ 01200 423118

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## Dear Parent/Carer

We are delighted to have welcomed all students back to face-to-face lessons and we continue to be extremely impressed by the maturity and resilience displayed by Year 11. We understand that this is a time of great uncertainty and anxiety for many students. We are doing our very best to work to finalise plans for assessment this academic year, following the publication of the DfE / Ofqual's consultation findings at the end of last month, as we understand the need for clarity for students as soon as possible. We are still waiting for further information and guidance from the examination boards, but we are not expecting this before the end of the month.

As we have explained to students, it is important for us to develop a system which is fair, transparent and gives everyone an opportunity to show what they can do. We have taken the opportunity to consult with a range of stakeholders, including teaching staff, students, the Governing Body and Heads of Department. We have also been liaising with other centres through local and other professional networks.

We are currently able to confirm the following regarding the awarding of GCSE grades this summer.

- As per the guidance, we will be assessing student performance based only on the content
  we have been able to deliver and we will be using a broad range of evidence from
  throughout the course to inform the awarding of grades.
- We will be considering student performance across the whole GCSE course as per the guidance in the booklet attached.
- Year 11 students will sit Summer Assessments during the period 26<sup>th</sup> April-7<sup>th</sup> May 2021 inclusive. Each subject assessment will be 1.5 hours long and, in order to ensure fairness as we have a large number of teaching groups, each subject assessment will take place all at the same time.
- We will issue the Assessment timetable to all students very soon so that they are able to plan their preparation time.
- Any student who usually has Access Arrangements in place (e.g. extra time, use of a laptop etc) will have these arrangements confirmed ahead of the assessments.
- During this period, students need only attend for their assessments, but may use a designated room in the Science block to study.
- In subjects where NEAs (Non-Examined Assessments) take place, these will be weighted to the same percentage as is usual in the specification. These will be marked according to the normal mark scheme, but we will take into account the circumstances under which they were undertaken.
- No new subject content will be delivered after Easter. This will allow time and space for students and teachers to focus on preparation for the assessments.
- It is our intention to be able to publish definitive revision or "Study Lists" for these subjects before the end of next week. We understand how important this information is to students,

but have been delayed a little as we wait for further details from the Awarding Bodies.

• GCSE Results Day will be 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

Unfortunately, we are unable to confirm the date when Year 11 will no longer be required to attend school. This is because we have been instructed to wait for further DfE clarification on this matter and as soon as we receive this information, we will inform students and parents of the relevant dates.

Thank you for all your continued support and understanding.

Yours sincerely

Mrs C S Reeves

Deputy Headteacher: Head of Main School

Mr J O Alcock

Assistant Headteacher: Main School