



Ramsey Grammar School

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Dear Students, Parents and Carers

Awarding of Grades Summer 2021

Since the cancellation of the summer exams, all of your teachers have been working hard to interpret and apply the exam board guidance about how you will be assessed this summer. This is gradually being published by the various examination boards. We are conscious of keeping you informed of the planning and preparation that is ongoing so you may all be reassured and able to concentrate on your own preparation as students and families for the forthcoming assessments. At the moment, your teachers are busy reading all the information, attending webinars for training and writing their plans for when and how you will be assessed. Without all of the information yet, it is difficult to give you precise information, however we think it is safe to assume that you will be working in lessons on assessments for the period mid-April to the end of May. There may be some pieces to complete in early June but these will be limited.

We plan to produce a page on the website where we can post links to important information from exam boards so that you can see for yourselves the guidance if you choose to. Most of this is already on their websites but we thought having a central information hub might help. We will contact you when we have developed the page on the website.

Each exam board is slightly different and there are roughly 4 main approaches. Not all of them will apply to you, it will depend which courses you are studying.

The main groups are for Year 11:

SQA	WJEC GCSE	CAIE IGCSE	Pearson BTEC
Fashion and Textiles Practical Cookery	Art Business with French Drama Food and Nutrition French Maths Media Studies Product Design RE Spanish Tourism	Business Studies Computer Science English Language English Literature Geography Global Perspectives History Music PE Science	BTEC Agriculture BTEC ICT BTEC Science

The main groups for Year 12 and Year 13 are:

Board	Subjects
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AQA	Art, Business Studies, Computer Science, Economics Further Maths(A2 Y13), French, Politics, Psychology, Sociology, Core Maths(AS Y13)
CAIE	Chemistry, Geography, Global Perspectives, ICT, Physics
EDEXCEL	English Language English Literature
OCR	Biology, History
WJEC/Eduqas	Design Technology, Drama, Food & Nutrition, Further Maths (AS Y12), Geology, Maths, Music, RE, Tourism
BTEC	Agriculture, Applied Science, Enterprise, Health and Social Care, Music, Performing Arts, Sport
LIBF	Certificate in Financial Studies

The details are complicated but we have tried to summarise the main points for you below.

Evidence

Teachers will create a folder of evidence for each student and for each qualification. This will vary for each subject and exam board. Cambridge for example is requiring 3 pieces of evidence from work that has taken at least an hour each time whereas other boards allow 4 pieces of evidence.

The evidence is likely to be based on in-class assessments using past exam questions. Some boards may also devise some additional assessment material for teachers to use. If so, this should be provided to us by the start of April.

Although we can, in some circumstances, use existing work (such as mock exams), the advice is to provide evidence of how students are performing as late as possible in the course. So students will be doing additional assessments. These are not exams though, more like controlled coursework. You will be asked to verify that it is your own work. Teachers will undertake additional training on how to use the mark schemes and make sure they are fair when marking the assessments.

For those of you doing CAIE or WJEC AS level examinations in Year 12, it is complicated. Please refer to your subject teachers for specific information about these qualifications.

Deadlines

The deadline for us to submit most grades is 18th June. Before that we have to make sure that we have checked every grade and completed the moderation process. Realistically, this means that the bulk of the assessments will take place during May with the **deadline for completion of the assessments at the end of the month** (although we may need to request additional evidence on an individual student basis if this will support a more accurate submission).

Submission to the exam boards

Once they have marked and moderated all of the work, teachers have a week to check all of the evidence and use it to determine their proposed grades. The exam boards are going to send out guidance on how they need to do this. These proposed grades then have to be checked by the Leadership Group to ensure they are fair, have followed the guidance and are based on secure evidence. This means that, at this point, the provisional centre determined grades are confirmed at school level and for WJEC they will be shared with students.

The centre determined grades are then submitted to the exam boards no later than 18th June.

Coursework

For WJEC, the system is based on the usual process for coursework or non-examined assessments (NEAs). This has an appeal stage prior to us submitting the grades, so you will be told the proposed grade before we send it in and, if you think there has been a problem with the process, you have a window of time to appeal. After this, we then submit the grades by the end of June.

Results and appeals

Students will be issued their grades on results days as usual in August (10th for A level and 12th for GCSE). At this point there will be an opportunity to appeal if you think we have made a mistake.

What should students do now?

Firstly, continue to do the work your teachers are asking you to complete. For subjects like Global Perspectives, DT and Art where you have coursework folders, the more you can complete, the better the evidence will be. Practising past papers is also a good idea as assessments will use questions very similar in style and content to past papers, so you may well find that you are asked to do some that are familiar to you.

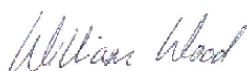
Over Easter, despite the desire and need to prepare for the assessments described above, it is also really important to have a break from academic work and get some fresh air and exercise or whatever helps you to feel 'well'. Make sure you eat properly and have enough sleep. You need to look after your body so that your brain can function well. Try not to worry as you can trust that all of your teachers will guide you through the next few weeks in order that you achieve the results in August that all of your hard work deserves.

On a final note students can, as ever, find wellbeing advice on the school website. Exam boards have also posted information for students about how to keep healthy mentally and physically and also where to access help and support if you need it. The [OCR](#) one is useful so I have inserted the hyperlink to it.

Although not a situation that any of us would have wished for, as a community I have no doubt that we will as ever pull together and look after each other in order to ensure that all of our students achieve results in August that are truly reflective of their effort, application and achievement.

Look after yourselves and please get in touch via RGSEnquiries@sch.im should you have any queries. During the Easter holidays we will respond to you, at least on a weekly basis.

Yours sincerely



Mr W Wood
Assistant Headteacher