

RV/AR

30 September 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all back to school. The last six months have been unusual and challenging in many respects and I am delighted that we are open for business again. I wanted to take this opportunity to share some of the things that we learnt during lockdown as well as drawing to your attention things that will help you and your child navigate Year 11 successfully.

Firstly, let's talk about examinations. At the time of writing I have not received any guidance regarding the summer examinations for 2021, all I am assuming is that these examinations will take place in some form unless there is another national lockdown. It could be that the examinations are moved further back in the calendar to mitigate the effects on learning and progress of the time that was lost between March and September.

It is also likely that in many subject areas the examined content will be reduced and our teachers will amend their teaching plans accordingly. However, if we do find ourselves in a second prolonged lockdown we might be asked to provide Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs) for the children once again. There is a very important point for you to understand here, CAGs are awarded on progress to date and not what might happen in the future, in effect they are a distillation of all the assessment data we hold on your child.

Therefore, if there is one piece of advice to share with your child it is to ensure that all the assessments, mocks and NEAs are completed to the best of their abilities. A number of the outgoing year 11 students assured me that they intended to work much harder after Easter, however this was a flawed strategy as their intentions could not be used to determine their CAGs. As soon as I have any further guidance on examinations I will share it with you.

This year, students in Year 11 will sit two sets of mock GCSE examinations. The first set will be completed between Thursday 12 and Thursday 26 November 2020 (a timetable for these examinations is attached). The second set of mocks will be at the end of January 2021.

It is essential that your child takes these mocks seriously as they might be used to determine CAGs. If you have any queries regarding revision for individual subjects, please contact your child's teachers directly. In addition, I will be adding revision skills tutorials to the Year 11 google classroom (classroom code b73f3gh). In the run up to the final examinations I will also issue the 12 week revision plan for every qualification.

During year 11 I usually receive a number of requests from parents to drop subjects as the year progresses. The Department for Education have been very clear in their guidance in this area. The official guidance states;

'The majority of pupils in year 10 and 11 are expected to continue to study their examination subjects. This will support them towards their preferred route to further study.'

Under exceptional circumstances I have in the past let students discontinue a GCSE subject but this has only been done having considered attendance, medical difficulties, risk of permanent exclusion and progress data. Our aspiration is for all of our year 11 students to complete all their qualifications.

Finally, I have included below some subject specific guidance. If you have any questions, queries or worries please do not hesitate to contact me at school on rvaughan@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Yours faithfully

**Mr R Vaughan
Vice Principal**

| | |
|---------|--|
| English | <p>In English we are looking to give some additional support to some students through google classrooms. These students will be invited to a classroom where there will be a range of activities such as Seneca learning, an online retrieval site, GCSE pod and also a range of Language tasks. For all students Seneca Learning and GCSE pod are ideal for Literature revision and are free to the students. GCSE pod is particularly good for downloading podcasts and then listening to on the move while Seneca is more suited to those who like revising with a computer for a period of time.</p> <p>Also, we will be doing a series of recorded Literature revision lectures for all students during form time in place of the after-school lectures that took place last year for Yr11. If you feel like your son/daughter needs some extra help or you want some advice about revision resources please contact myself at MSingleton1@educ.somerset.gov.uk . We also have a KS4 website with a whole range of resources on there at https://sites.google.com/huishepiscopi.net/huishenglish/home</p> |
| MFL | <p>There will be no formal speaking exam for year 11, but there will be a speaking assessment carried out in the class.</p> <p>The remaining skills that will be tested are writing, reading and listening, each with a weighting of 33%, so it is essential students focus on all three skills.</p> <p>Only the core vocabulary lists set by the board will be tested in all three papers, so it is essential students learn the vocabulary. We recommend " little and often".</p> |
| DT | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research section should now be complete 2. Design section now underway - deadline October half-term <p>Coursework marks reduced from 100 to 85 marks but still counts for 50% of the qualification. The requirement to make a product has effectively been removed but at Huish if we can, we will still aim to allow students to make a product. This will all depend on any disruptions and how well students meet the deadlines. All support materials for the course can be found on the google classrooms - please take a look. In November all D&T students will undertake a mock examination. Revision materials are available via the google classroom. Please encourage your son/daughter to look at these now and start revising. Mocks maybe an integral part of grades process next year.</p> |
| Drama | <p>Due to the lockdown students are now going to be completing all of their three exam components this year. Students have two practical exams, a piece of written coursework and a final written exam. The students first practical exam is fast approaching and I would like to make you aware of some dates:</p> <p>1st Exam. Component 1, Devising: Students are currently creating and rehearsing their own performances. The performance date for these exams are 11 and 12 of November, the exams will take place afterschool. It is expected, where possible, students attend both evenings. Students are able to rehearse for practical exams on Wednesdays and Thursdays after school should they wish. There will be a Sunday rehearsal opportunity for students on Sunday 8 November. The Drama department will be getting in touch with all the relevant information regarding the exam performance (and how you can watch it) in the coming weeks.</p> <p>Students will then be required to write a portfolio answering six questions evaluating and analysing their creative process (30% of GCSE). Your support with the completion of this piece of coursework is greatly appreciated. Ensuring the coursework is of a high standard means they are heading into the exams in the best possible position. You will be notified of coursework deadlines in due course.</p> |