Great Marlow School

HEADTEACHER: Mr K Ford

Bobmore Lane
Marlow
Bucks
SL7 1JE
Tel: 01628 483752
info@gms.bucks.sch.uk
www.gms.bucks.sch.uk

26th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Year 11 Important Update

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your support over the past year in what has been a difficult one for all. Students in Year 11 have faced many challenges with regards to their education, both in terms of the continuity of their learning and the increasing amounts of independence and resilience that they have had to demonstrate.

On Wednesday 24th March, The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (OfQual) finally published the Information for heads of centre, heads of department and teachers on the submission of teacher assessed grades: summer 2021. The full detail can be accessed by clicking on the highlighted link.

The most pertinent points are below:

Standards in 2021

"For every subject, exam boards require each school, college or other exam centre to submit a grade for each student, based on a range of evidence which demonstrates the standard at which they are performing.

Exam boards will provide further advice and guidance to exemplify the standard of work expected for particular grades, including additional grade descriptors to supplement those previously published by Ofqual, as well as exemplar materials. Centres should consider these when making their judgements.
(Schools are still waiting for this information to be published!)

Sources of Evidence

Centres should continue teaching students for as long as possible, to cover as much of the specification content as possible, and they should assess students on as broad a range of specification content as they can.

Types of Assessment Evidence

We (Ofqual) recommend the following types of evidence, where available:

1. Student work produced in response to assessment materials normally provided by the exam board including past papers, and the groups of questions being provided to support evidence gathering this summer, or similar materials such as practice or sample papers.

2. Non-exam assessment (NEA) work (often referred to as coursework), even if this has not been fully completed.

3. Student work produced in centre-devised tasks that reflect the specification, that follow the same format as exam board materials and have been marked in a way that reflects exam board mark schemes. This can include substantial class or homework (including those that took place during remote learning), internal tests taken by pupils and mock exams taken over the course of study.

4. Records of a student's capability and performance over the course of study in performance-based subjects such as music, drama and PE.

5. Records of each student's standard of work over the course of study.

More recent evidence is likely to be more representative of student performance, although there may be exceptions, for example where a student has experienced significant ill health since the earlier assessments.

Centres will be able to submit grades from 26 May, and the final deadline for submission of data, including grades for the endorsements, is Friday 18 June 2021."

Year 11 Final Grading Assessments (FGAs)

In order to fulfil the requirements of Ofqual and best support students to attain the best possible grades in each subject we will be holding formal Final Grading Assessments (FGAs) for Year 11 between the 7th and 25th May.

It is therefore vitally important that in the next 6 weeks, students use their time productively to prepare thoroughly for these assessments. The information booklet attached to this email, along with this letter, details the specific information that teachers will be using to finalise the Teacher Assessed Grade (TAG). The booklet also gives the detailed information on the specific subject content that will be assessed as part of the Final Grading Assessment(s) (FGAs). In addition the booklet also explains the format of the exam paper(s) that will make up the FGA(s) for each subject.

It must be highlighted that the FGA(s) will carry significant weight towards the final grade that will be awarded for most subjects.

These FGAs will play a pivotal role in determining students' next steps, particularly access to post-16 subjects or courses for the next academic year. The Sixth Form Team are currently in the process of having guidance discussions with all Year 11 students and although many are clear about the qualifications that they need for their next step in education, there are still some students who are not. All students are being encouraged to work to the best of their ability to maximise their chance of attaining the required grades and where appropriate to develop a Plan B.

All of the information on the FGAs will be reinforced by individual subject teachers in the lead up. The Information Booklet that you have received, also, outlines some strategies for revision and Mr Wilson (Director of Learning for Year 11) has, in form time, provided further direction to students regarding revision strategies and methods.

Final Grading Assessments Timetable

Students will receive their individual timetable prior to the Easter holiday. A copy of the overall timetable will be published on the website on or before Monday 5th April.

In order to maximise the opportunities for revision students will not be going on study leave prior to or during the period of assessments. Lessons in all subject areas will continue up to the final assessment. Where a student has sat their final assessment in a subject they will still attend that lesson and will need to bring appropriate revision material for their other subject areas where assessments are still to be taken.

Easter Revision Programme

To support the revision process and to focus students on the assessments that they will be taking in May we will be running an Easter Revision Programme for Year 11 students.

***Please note we have been able to offer most subjects as part of the Easter revision programme but not all subjects. All subjects being covered in the revision sessions can be viewed on the MS Form.**

Tuesday 6th April

8.30-10.30	Session 1	Year 11 Option A (subjects)
10.30-11.00	Break	
11.00-13.00	Session 2	Year 11 Option B (subjects)
13.00-13.30	Break	
13.30-15.30	Session 3	Year 11 Option C (subjects)

Wednesday 7th April

8.30-10.30	Session 1	Year 11 Option D (subjects)
10.30-11.00	Break	
11.00-13.00	Session 2*	Year 11 Mathematics/Science Trilogy
13.00-13.30	Break	
13.30-15.30	Session 3	Year 11 Science Trilogy/Mathematics

***Students who do Mathematics session 2 will do Science Trilogy session 3 and vice versa**

Thursday 8th April

8.30-10.30	Session 1	Year 11 English Language/Literature
10.30-11.00	Break	
11.00-13.00	Session 2	Year 11 Science (Triple)*

*Year 11 Science (Triple) revision is only for students studying triple Science

Friday 9th April

8.30-15.30	Year 11 Art

Year 11 Form Tutors went through this letter and the Easter revision timetable during registration this morning (Friday). Students were also given a further copy of their current school lesson timetable, so that they are clear which option block they are studying which subject in. This is very important as you can see from the timetable above and is essential information for you to complete the MS Form via this link to register your child's participation in the Easter Revision Programme. Please complete the form by 1.00pm on Tuesday 30th March 2021, further details will be shared with students during the course of next week.

The canteen will not be open during the Easter revision programme, so all students attending will need to bring their own food and drink.

Leaving Date

At the time of this communication we are currently waiting for clear guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) as to when students in Year 11 will formally finish their education.

GCSE Results Day

Results will formally be published to students on Thursday 12th August and enrolment into the Sixth Form will commence on this day (further details of this will be communicated in the summer term by Mr Hollyman, Head of Sixth Form at Great Marlow School).

Reminder of Key Dates:

- Thursday 1st April — Break up for Easter Holiday
- Tuesday 6th April — Tuesday 6th April to Friday 9th April – GMS Easter Revision programme (Yr11)
- Monday 19th April — Start of the Summer Term
- Friday 7th May — Final Grade Assessments Begin
- Tuesday 25th May — Final Grade Assessments Finish
- Friday 28th May — Break Up for Half Term
- Monday 7th June — Quality Assurance Process of Final Grades Begins
- By Friday 18th June — Final Grades Submitted to Examination Boards

I am hoping that the detailed booklet accompanying this letter will answer most questions and, for any, unanswered questions your son/daughter will take responsibility and ask their subject teachers or their Director of Learning. Any questions after this, please direct to either the specific subject teacher or Mr Wilson as the Director of Learning.

Best wishes

Kevin Ford
Headteacher