

Frequently asked questions KS4 Curriculum evening

1. My child is in Year 11, will they sit exams?

The government has stated their intention that the present Year 11 will sit exams. This is a key message for Year 11 students that they need to expect to sit exams. The timetable for the summer exams has been released to schools and exam boards are preparing papers.

2. What adaptations have been made to how qualifications are assessed for Year 11?

There have been some adaptations to the way that qualifications will be assessed. A subject-by-subject breakdown of the published changes can be found in the information booklet that accompanies this event or by clicking the link on the curriculum evening webpage.

3. Will there be any changes to assessments for Year 10?

No changes to how qualifications will be assessed have been announced for Year 10 students however this obviously doesn't rule out a later announcement. Our departments have planned their curriculum based on the assumption that Year 10 will need to cover the full specification and undertake the full assessments.

4. Why are Year 11 sitting PPEs (mocks)? How will they be used?

We understand that sitting PPEs (mocks) can be stressful for students, perhaps especially so when they are worried about their lost learning time over the last two years. However, we believe that there is a definite value in students experiencing the exam season to prepare them for the summer. It also gives us a good snapshot of what students can and can't do when faced with an exam paper. Although students always want to know the grade that they achieved in the PPEs the greatest value is that they will allow all of our departments to adapt their curriculum and teaching to address areas in the PPEs that require strengthening.

5. I feel that my child needs more support in a subject, who do I contact?

There are a number of strategies that we can put in place to support a student in a particular subject. Please contact your child's subject teacher who will be happy to discuss your concerns.

6. My child seems to be struggling to cope, who do I contact?

If your concern is less specific and for example is around exam stress, mental health or overall engagement with their qualifications, please contact your child's Tutor or Mr Ravenscroft as their Head of Year. If you are concerned about how your child's Special Educational Need may affect them in exams and whether they need to be or have been assessed for access arrangements please contact our Inclusion department.

7. How are the gaps in learning from the lockdowns being addressed?

After each lockdown every department assessed where students were in their learning and adapted what and how they were teaching based upon this and the published changes to assessments. This has ensured that each subject has got a curriculum plan which addressed all the knowledge and application needed for the assessments.

8. My child needs a laptop to work at home, can the school help?

We have a supply of laptops which are specifically available for students to use at home to support their learning. We can also apply for internet access if this is needed as well. To request a laptop or internet access please contact our school reception.